A REVISED

AND

ENLARGED ACCOUNT

OF THE

BOBBILI ZEMINDARI,

COMPILED BY

MAHA-RAJAH SAHEB MEHARBAN-I-DOSTAN
MAHA-RAJAH SRI RAO SIR VENKATA SWETACHALAPATI
RANGA-RAO BAHADUR, K.C.I.E.,
MAHARAJAH OF BOBBILI.

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PREFACE.

(FIRST EDITION).

THE compiler of the "Bobbili Zemindari," which was published in 1889, made a gross mistake as to the Founder of the Samasthanam; and subsequent to its publication, some more records and further accounts have been obtained from several sources. I have, therefore, undertaken to write this Revised and Enlarged History of the Zemindari, and it took me more than a year to identify the Founder of the Samasthanam.

BOBBILI, 1900.

V. S. R.,
Bobbili.

This Second Edition published in 1907 brings the History of the Samasthanam up to date.

V. S. R.,
Bobbili.

BOBBILI ZEMINDARI.

THIS is one of the most ancient Zemindaries in India. It is included in the Vizagapatam District, Madras Presidency, and possesses a very interesting history. It is situated in lat. $18^{\circ}22'$ to $18^{\circ}46'$ N., long. $83^{\circ}10'$ to $83^{\circ}20'$ E., is surrounded by the British taluks of Chipurupalli, Gajapatinagaram, Salur, Parvatipur, Palconda and Chicacole, and consists of the Pergunnahs (Tanas) of Bobbili, Rajam, Kavitey and Sitanagaram, and each is under the charge of an officer called Ameen. The ancient Zemindari is about 300 square miles in area, and contains

139 Jeroyati villages, 53 Agraharams, and 5 Mokhasas. Its revenue is about Rs.4,36,800 including the value of about 3,407 garces of paddy, which is rent paid in kind. The peishcush is Rs.83,651 and the land-cess Rs.30,832. There are about 8,116 tenants with pattas or leases. The average rate of rent per acre of wet land is Rs.7½, and of dry land Rs.2. There are about 241 inams, which yield annually Rs.18,501 enjoyed by Velama Doras, 243 inams yielding Rs.4,896 enjoyed by Desasthulu and hill-peons, and 643 Akarams yielding Rs.38,624 enjoyed by the ryots. All the above inams are given from Jeroyati lands and are held on service tenure. As a rule they descend from father to son, subject to the will and pleasure of the raja. The population, which is about entirely Telugu Hindu, is 157,879 according to the census of 1881, 150,878 according to that of 1891, and 158,506 according to that of 1901. The estate is well supplied with tanks and irrigation

channels, the former numbering about 1,725. The irrigation channels are mostly connected with the rivers Janjhavati, Vegavati and Nagavali, which run through the Zemindari. The principal wet crops are rice and sugar-cane. The dry crops are ragi, gingelly, oil-seeds, horse-gram, red-gram, green-gram, black-gram, tobacco, &c. The following estates and other villages and lands have been eventually purchased and added to the Samasthanam.

1. Tummapala, Annamrajupeta and six other villages leased to the Vizianagaram Zemindari.—The annual rent of this Hunda is Rs.22,495.

2. Karakavalasa and Mulagavalasa estates.—The annual rent of these estates is Rs.33,112 peishcush Rs.7,992, and land-cess Rs.2,160. The Jeroyati and other villages number 53, and the number of pattadars is 1,021. The population according to the census of 1901 is 14,102.

3. Pedapenki Hunda and certain villages and lands situated in and about the ancient Zemindari.---The annual rent of this portion is Rs.47,482 including the rent in kind, peishcush Rs.9,322, and land-cess Rs.2,902. The Jeroyati and other villages are 24 in number, and the number of tenants is 892. The population according to the census of 1901 is 14,405.

4. Siripuram Thana consisting of portions of Kirlampudi, Arempudi, Rayavaram and Dantamur Estates, all situated in the Godaveri District.—The annual rent of this Thana is Rs.85,364, peishcush Rs.18,116, and land-cess Rs.4,927. The Jeroyati and other villages are 18 in number, while the number of pattadars is 516. The population of this Thana (census 1901) is 19,321.

5. Thiruvur Thana situated in the Chingleput District.—The annual rent is Rs.26,403, peishcush Rs.7,790, and land-cess Rs.1,234.

The number of Jeroyati and other villages is 12, and that of the pattadars 1,522. The population (census 1901) is 6,907.

The annual rent of the villages and other lands which were presented to the temples at Bobbili and Sitarampur by the former Rajas of the Samasthanam is Rs.30,668. The number of pattadars is 490.

The total annual income of the Samasthanam and of the other estates eventually bought amounts at present to about Rs.6,51,670. The total population living within the limits of the ancient Zemindari and the Estates added to the Zemindari excluding the first item is 213,241 according to the census of 1901. The total number of tenants is 12,067.

The chief town is Bobbili, the residence of the Maharajah. Lat. 18° 34′-N., long. 18° 25′-E. It is about 70 miles north-west of Vizagapatam. Sir M. E. Grant Duff, who visited Bobbili in 1883, describes it as "a clean and well-kept

town, furnished with all the appliances of Anglo-Indian civilisation--schools, hospitals and what not—all within a walk of the remains of the Old Fort, where 126 years ago was enacted one of the most ghastly stories which even Indian History has to record."

The population of the town with its suburbs Gollapalli, Pata-Bobbili and Mallammapettah, according to the census of 1891, is 14,468 ; of this number 14,075 are Hindus, 333 Muhammadans, and 60 Christians. And again the population, according to the census of 1901, is 18,025 ; of this number 17,373 are Hindus, 333 Muhammadans, and 59 Christians. There is a Canadian Baptist Mission in the town. This Mission maintains a Girls' School. There is also a Roman Catholic Chapel with a small congregation.

There are a Vishnu and a Siva temple ; the other public institutions are :—The Sub-Magistrate's Office, the Police-station, the

Sub-Registrar's Office, the Post and Telegraph Office, the Local Fund Dispensary, the Samasthanam Gosha Hospital, the Samasthanam Offices, the Samasthanam High School, Sri Maharani Caste Girls' School, the Victoria Town Hall, the Maharajah's Chattram, the Samasthanam Poor House, and the Travellers' Bungalow for Europeans. There is also a Local Fund Union or Panchayet subordinate to the Parvatipur Taluk Board. The town is supplied with drinking-water by four tanks, which are situated on the four sides of the town.

The weaving of cloths and the manufacture of brass and bell-metal articles are the chief industries carried on.

The Bobbili family belongs to the tribe known as Velama Doras, who (according to Orme) "esteem themselves the highest blood of Native Indians next to the Brahmins, equal to the Rajputs, and support this pre-eminence

by the haughtiest observances, insomuch that the breath of a different religion, and even of the meaner Indians, requires ablution." The men of this race are, as a rule, well-built and of a warlike disposition. They are proverbially haughty, so much so that they are not known to serve any but the chiefs of their own caste. Most of them are very backward in education and full of prejudices. They are very daring and reckless of life when their feelings are hurt, or when anything happens to offend their notions of respect. The gallantry shown by Rajah Ranga-Rao and his followers, who consisted of Velama Doras and Desastulu (Talagas), in the memorable siege of Bobbili in 1758, made such a deep impression on the Hindus that it has been commemorated in ballads which are sung to this day by wandering minstrels in many parts of the Presidency. A Prabandha called "Ranga Raya Charitra" (History of Ranga-Rao) contains a description of the battle of Bobbili.

The following is a brief sketch of the important events in the lives of the successive Rajahs of Bobbili. It must be mentioned that in consequence of the destruction of the Bobbili Fort in 1758, and the anarchy which followed that destruction, there were hardly any records from which sufficient information regarding some of the Rajahs could be gathered.

THE FOUNDER OF THE SAMASTHANAM.

As regards the founder of the Samasthanam, the genealogies given in those Prabandhams that have been composed by the members of the family, or are dedicated to them by poets, the history of the Zemindari compiled by the late G. Ranganayakulu, Carmichael's District Manual, and the Samasthanam records, all these differ from one another. I now, therefore, propose to examine the different accounts, and to show who is the real founder of the Bobbili family.

The Prabandhams referred to above, all begin with the ancestor Anipotamulu, and say that Lingappa Ranga-Rao built the fort and town of Bobbili. It is from the latter that they trace the genealogy of the successive generations.

The Prabandhams are the following :—

(1) "Sree Kurma Kshetra Mahatmyam," composed by K. Venkata Kristna Somayajee and dedicated to Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao.

(2) " Sankalpa Suryodayam," composed by Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao.

(3) "Prapadana Parijatam," composed by K. Kothandaramayya and dedicated to Rajah Swethachalapati Ranga-Rao.

(4) " Hari Bhakti Sudhodayam " and " Mitravindaparinayam," both composed by Rajah Janardana Ranga-Rao, the second son of Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao.

In his history of the Bobbili Zemindari, G. Ranganayakulu says that Rajah Dharma Rao was the founder of the Samasthanam. He finds this stated in some of the records of the Samasthanam, to which much weight must apparently be attached. But this cannot, for the following reasons, be accepted as true.

In his letter, dated the 15th December, 1821, J. Smith, Esq., the then Collector and Agent of Vizagapatam, in asking the then Rajah of Bobbili, Rayadappa for his opinion on some matters then under the consideration of the Government, such as the entrusting of the police administration to the Zemindars, and the making of all the Zemindaries inalienable under certain conditions, inquired of the Rajah who the founder of the Samasthanam was and what customs prevailed in the Samasthanam in the matter of succession. In reply to the inquiry about the founder, the Rajah

says that Rajah Dharma Rao, the grandson of Sarvagnya Singamulu, a scion of the Venkatagiri family, was the founder of the Samasthanam.

But five years afterwards, Rajah Rayadappa himself composed a book named "Sankalpa Suryodayam," in which he does not even mention the name of Dharma Rao in the genealogy. On the completion of the book he made a gift of an Agraharam, by a deed dated 13th September, 1826, to a Pandit who helped in the task. In it he says that Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao was the ancestor that built the town and fort of Bobbili, resided there, and conquered the country as far as Bastar. He mentions also the names of Anipotamulu and Sarvagnya Singamulu as the great, victorious, and learned members of the family before Rajah Lingappa.

The other four Prabandhams also begin with the same two great members of the family,

and say that Rajah Lingappa was the one who built the fort at Bobbili and resided there. It would seem, therefore, that Rajah Rayadappa must have subsequently learnt that Dharma Rao was not, as he had previously written to the Collector and Agent of Vizagapatam, the founder of the Bobbili family; for when he mentioned the name of Sarvagnya Singamulu, he would not have omitted mention of his grandson, Dharma Rao, of whom he wrote to the Collector and Agent of Vizagapatam that he was the founder of the Samasthanam.

In the genealogy of the Venkatagiri family, Sarvagnya Singamulu is shown to be childless; but in the male line, as amongst the Hindus all brothers' sons are regarded as sons of each brother, there was a descendant, Dharma Rao by name, related as a kind of grandson to Sarvagnya Singamulu. As Sarvagnya Singamulu belongs to the tenth generation, Dharma Rao must then be regarded as belonging to the twelfth. The present Rajah of Venkata-

giri, being a member of the twenty-eighth generation, comes, therefore, under the sixteenth generation after Dharma Rao. If we take this Dharma Rao as the head of the Bobbili family, there must have been about sixteen generations from him to the present Rajah of Bobbili. But from Rajah Lingappa who, all the Prabandhams say, was the builder of the fort at Bobbili, there are only ten generations. Therefore, from all these circumstances, it seems clear that Dharma Rao could not be the founder of the House. Again, opposite to the name of Dharma Rao, in the ninth generation of the Venkatagiri family, it is written that he is one of the Ravu Varu. The families of Venkatagiri, Pittapur, Bobbili, and Jetprole (in the Nizam's Dominions) are all Ravu Varu. But Venkatagiri and Jetprole have, in later years, changed their family names for the names of the towns where they settled. All these four families, and many other families descended from these four, have

the same Gotra, *viz.*, "Recherla." The Venkatagiri family is not only the first to whom the surname Ravu Varu was applied, but is also the head of the Velama Doralu. The family was at first called Ravu Varu, but after some years they lived at Amanagallu near Warangal, and were hence called Amanaganti Varu.

Again, the thirteenth generation settled at Velugodu, and since then to the present day they have been called Velugoti Varu. This Dharma Rao, of the ninth generation of the Venkatagiri family, for some reason or other changed his family name from Amanaganti Varu for the older name of Ravu Varu ; or he might have become the founder of the Pittapur or some other family called Ravu Varu. But we cannot call him the founder of the Bobbili family ; for, if we take this Dharma Rao or the Dharma Rao of the twelfth generation as its founder, we have to add four or five more generations to the Bobbili family and to assign

them some names as well as places for them to live in.

This family name Ravu Varu is one of historical importance, but it is not the name of a place where the members of the family lived. Its origin is this:

The Maharajah Pratapa Rudra of Warangal conferred this name of honour on the family of Chevi Reddi *alias* Bhetala Naidu, the founder of the Venkatagiri Samasthanam, and also ordered that every Velama Dora must have Ravu added at the end of his name. In the history of "Padmanayaka Charitra" there is a verse in regard to this family name, which translated runs as follows:—

"He who has the title Rao, which was bestowed by the king, prefixed to his name, is the ruler; and if it is affixed to the name, then it is a general mark of the Velama caste."

Now let us see who were Anipotamulu and Sarvagnya Singamulu. They were none other

than the Anipotamulu and Sarvagnya Singamulu of the Venkatagiri family. The first one was a great warrior, who distinguished himself by his valour. He killed many chiefs in battle and conquered the country as far as the river Krishna. It is said that in a single battle he killed and conquered one hundred and one chiefs who had combined together against him. The second, Sarvagnya Singamulu, was celebrated for his learning. He was well versed in many branches of knowledge and always surrounded himself by pandits and poets. He composed a book called "Singa Bhupaleeyam." He was called Sarvagnya (one who knows everything) by the people. Though they were members of the Venkatagiri family, which was the original line of Ravu Varu, they were praised in the histories of Bobbili and Pittapur as the members of their own families, for the simple reason that they were their ancestors and of great reputation. But they were always mentioned before the founders

of the houses. Their names have also become household words in every Velama family.

G. Ranganayakulu, the compiler of "the Bobbili Zemindari," was altogether mistaken in the view he took. Following the letter written by Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao to the Collector, he takes Dharma Rao as the founder of the family, yet strangely puts Anipotamulu, who belongs to the sixth generation of the Venkatagiri family, as the son of Dharma Rao, who is of the twelfth generation in the same genealogy. Again he puts Sarvagnya Singamulu as the great grandson of Dharma Rao, while according to Rajah Rayadappa's letter and the Venkatagiri genealogy, Dharma Rao is the grandson of Sarvagnya Singamulu. He has also added two more generations before Lingappa Ranga-Rao, thus showing more generations in the line. He had not any sort of authority to add these extra generations.

Note here that Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao is mentioned in all the above Prabandhams as a resident of Bobbili and the builder of the fort. But they do not say he was the founder of the house. Then it must be another one who first acquired this Zemindari.

In Carmichael's District Manual, and also in the recently published histories, the name of Pedda Rayadu is mentioned as the founder of the house.

Carmichael's Manual says in para 3, page 291 :—

THE BOBBILI FAMILY AND ESTATE.

"The Zemindar is a 'Velama Dora,' of the same branch of the tribe as the Zemindar of Venkatagiri in Nellore. In A. D. 1652, an ancestor named Pedda Rayadu entered the district in the train of the Foudar or Nawab of Chicacole, Shere Mahammad Khan. Another retainer of the Khan's was Pusapati Madhava

Varma, the ancestor of the Vizianagaram family; and the rivalry between these two houses dates from this period.

"Pedda Rayadu soon distinguished himself by rescuing the Nawab's son out of the hands of certain rebels whom he defeated with great slaughter at a place called 'Rangavaka' near Palasa in Ganjam. The Nawab rewarded him with the lease of Rajam Hunda in this district and gave him the title of Ranga Row, which has been borne by all his successors. The new Zemindar built himself a fort and petta, to which he gave the name of 'Bebbuli' (the royal tiger), in honour of his patron's designation, 'Shere.' From 'Bebbuli' the name of the town and Zemindari has been corrupted into Bobbili."

In speaking about the population of the Circars, and after mention is made of the Brahmins, the following occurs on page 140 of the "Fifth Report":—

"In like manner, the Rachewars, Row-wars, and Velamas,* of which denominations the principal Zemindars in the Circars are actually composed, affect the warlike character and manners of Rajputs to entitle themselves to be ranked with the more genuine offspring of the Chesteree or second class."

The foot-note on the same page runs as follows :—

* "Rachewars, or Row-wars, Telinga corruptions of Rajah, or of its diminutive Rai, joined with the personal or local appellation, war, to express the people or descendants of chiefs of foreign extracts, or of modern upstart race. The Velamawars among the Telinganians are equivalent to the Nairs of Malabar, or Naigs of Canara, and are the Native gentry or military of the country, claiming descent from, or adopted into, the families sprung from the ancient princes of Worungel."

Madras Manual of the Administration by Dr. Macleane says in para. 11, page 60 :—

SKETCH ACCOUNT OF THE BOBBILI ZEMINDARI.

"This estate is in Vizagapatam District. It is surrounded by the British talooks of Gujapatinugger, Cheepoorpully, Saulore, Parvatipore, Palcondah, and Bobbili. It consists of five pergunnahs, Bebbooly, Rajam, and Kavitey, Seetanagaram, and Mettoogramamoolu, and yields to its owner a revenue of Rs.3,75,000 per annum. Of this, Rs.90,000 is paid to Government as peishcush. The estate possesses an interesting history. When in 1652, Sher Mahomed Khan, the Nawab of Chicacole, entered the district, he was accompanied by two men, rivals to each other, one being Peddarayoodoo, the ancestor of the present chief of Bobbili, and the other the ancestor of the Vizianagaram family; and from this time dates the rivalry between the two houses.

Peddarayoodoo soon after received in reward for gallantry the estate of Rajam, where he built a fort, naming it Bebbooly (the royal tiger), in honor of his patron's designation, Sher (tiger). From Bebbooly the name of the town and zemindari has been corrupted into Bobbili. This estate bordered on Vizianagaram, and the ill-feeling between the chiefs was increased by constant conflicts of interest. In 1756 the disorderly behaviour of the Poligars called for measures of repression, and M. Bussy marched with a European force to restore order. On his reaching Vizianagaram the Rajah assured him that the chief of Bobbili was the instigator of all disturbances, and to testify his own loyalty, joined the French with a force of 11,000 men to assist in crushing his rival. Before attacking the latter, M. Bussy offered the chief a pardon for the past, and land of equal value elsewhere, if he would abandon his ancestral estate; but the offer was refused. The attack on the fort of Bobbili is

one of the most memorable in Indian History. At daybreak, the field pieces began to play on the mud defences, practicable breaches were at once made, and the assault sounded. After four hours' desperate fighting, hand to hand, Bussy called off his men to allow the cannon to widen the breaches. A second assault was then ordered, but with no better results; for not a man had gained footing within the ramparts when five hours later Bussy again withdrew the storming party to repeat the argument of artillery. The defenders now recognised their desperate position, and collecting their wives and families put them to death, and returned to their posts. The assault soon recommenced; and when at sunset Bussy entered the fort as victor with the remnant of his army, it was only because every man of the garrison was dead or desperately wounded. An old man, however, crept from a hut, and leading a child to Bussy presented him as the son of the

dead chief. Four other men had preserved their lives; and two nights later, when the Vizianagaram camp was buried in sleep, they crept into the Rajah's tent, and before the sentries had discovered and shot down the assassins, they had stabbed the Rajah to death with thirty-two wounds. The child, Chinna Ranga Row, saved from the slaughter, was invested by Bussy with the chiefship of the lands that had been offered to his father; but before he attained his majority, his uncle regained by force of arms the former estate of Rajam. At last the Vizianagaram family compromised with their rivals, and leased to them the Kavitey and Rajam pergunnahs. The old feud, however, again broke out, and the Bobbili chief fled into the Nizam's country. In 1794, when the Vizianagaram estate was dismembered, Chinna Ranga Row was restored by the British to his father's domains, and in 1801 a permanent settlement was concluded with Chinna Ranga Row's adopted son, Rayadappa,

at an annual tribute of Rs.90,000. Since then the peace of the estate has been undisturbed. Rayadappa was succeeded in 1830 by his son Swethachellaputty, who was an excellent manager of the property. Dying in 1862, Swethachellaputty was succeeded by Seetharamakrishna, whom he adopted out of the family of the Zemindar of Pittapur in the Godaveri District. Seetharamakrishna having died childless in 1868, his widow, Lakshmee Chellegoomma (Chellayyamma) succeeded to the estate. In 1876, the title of Ranee was conferred upon her in consideration of her liberality in contributing 1,000 garces of paddy to alleviate the distress during the Bengal famine. In 1871, she adopted the present Zemindar, Vencata Swetachellaputty, out of the family of the Zemindar of Vencatagherry in the Nellore District. Vencata Swetachellaputty assumed charge of the estate in 1881 on his attaining majority."

In the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* by W. W. Hunter, Vol. III., on page 21, a similar account is given about Bobbili.

Evidently Pedda Rayadu came in 1652 in the train of Sher Mahammad Khan, Nawab of Chicacole. The other chief was Madhava Varma, the ancestor of the Vizianagaram family. Madhava Varma and Pedda Rayadu could not be common persons coming in the train of Sher Mahammad Khan to help him in the conquering of the Circars. Madhava Varma was said to be a chief of Pusapadu near Kondapalli, close to Bezwada. At that time, the country as far as the southern bank of the River Krishna was under the Venkatagiri Raj. The then Rajah of Venkatagiri was Nirvana Rayappa *alias* Pedda Rayappa. He was generally called by the latter name, and must in all probability be the same Pedda Rayadu who came in the train of Sher Mahammad Khan. In the history of the Venkatagiri family, he is placed in the fifteenth generation of that line.

He must have been a great warrior and a distinguished person; otherwise the name Rayappa would not have been given to several descendants of the families of Venkatagiri and Bobbili. Before him there was not such a name as Rayappa in the Venkatagiri family. At Bobbili, Pedda Rayappa or Pedda Rayadu, being the founder of the Raj, his name was given to several descendants of the Bobbili House, as hereinafter shown in the genealogy. There are also two big tanks that bear his name in the Zemindari, each of them being called "Rayaningari Tank."

From the above circumstances it is pretty clear and certain that Nirvana Rayappa *alias* Pedda Rayappa, the fifteenth lineal descendant of the Venkatagiri family, came to the Circars in the train of Nawab Sher Mahammad Khan, rendered valuable military services to the Mogul Government in conquering the Circars, and, in return, was granted this Zemindari by the Mogul Government.

Mr. Carmichael in his Manual says that Pedda Rayadu soon distinguished himself by rescuing the Nawab's son out of the hands of certain rebels, for which the Nawab rewarded him with Rajam Hunda, then called by that name, as the town of Bobbili was subsequently built. The Bobbili taluq was then known as the Sitanagaram taluq. Mr. Carmichael also says the hereditary title of Ranga-Rao was also conferred upon him at the same time. It is a well-known fact that Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao was the rescuer of the Nawab's son, and that for his services he received the title Ranga-Rao and also twelve villages in the Zemindari free from peishcush. When I come to Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao I shall write a full account of his valour. Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao's valour in the battle of Rangavaka and the title Ranga-Rao conferred upon him have become household topics of conversation in these parts.

Now let us see what is said of Pedda Rayappa in the Venkatagiri history. On page 28, it runs as follows : —

FIFTEENTH GENERATION.

" China Singama Naidu's son was Nirvana Rayappa Naidu *alias* Pedda Rayappa Naidu. This individual defeated the Rajahs of Velugodu, took possession of the fort, and planted his white umbrella thereon. Hence he obtained the title of Velugodugu Raya Vibhudu from a descendant and namesake of the great Pratapa Rudra Maharajah.

" Nirvana Rayappa Naidu was also noted for his liberality and religious disposition. He was a strict follower of the Vishnava sect, and he is also said to have granted away a large number of houses to Brahmins on account of their having invoked rain on one occasion, when the country was suffering from drought.

" Poet Mallanna has written a poem called ' Vykuntarohanam ' on his death.

Sixteenth Generation.

" Nirvana Rayappa Naidu had four sons, of two of whom nothing is known. The descendants of the eldest are known only for five generations after him, but nothing is known about them.

" The third son Kumara Timma Naidu continued the line. This individual is said to have ruled his dominions from his capital Velugodu and to have conquered all his enemies. He was also very liberal to Brahmins and gave them houses and lands."

In the above quotations nothing is said about Pedda Rayappa's obtaining the Bobbili Raj. But it is said he had four sons, and of the second and the fourth of these the compiler of the history knows nothing. And even of the eldest nothing is known but the names of his descendants for five generations. But nobody knows why the eldest did not succeed his father. Of the second and the fourth son, nothing

is mentioned in the book. The youngest or fourth son's name is Rangappa; in Telugu, the letter "Ra" and the letter "La" are written in such a way that many people, unless they are clearly written, mistake one for the other. In the old days, I need not say, it must have been far more difficult to distinguish those letters when written on palmyra leaves, the writing material of that time. Therefore, very likely, the name Lingappa was misread or miswritten as Rangappa.

Evidently Pedda Rayadu must have gone to the Circars in the train of Sher Mahammad Khan with his youngest son, Lingappa, left him to reign over the newly-obtained Zemindari of Bobbili, and returned to Venkatagiri. Or Pedda Rayappa must have given to the accompanying youngest son, Rangappa, the name of his great ancestor Lingappa, of the ninth generation of the Venkatagiri family. This Lingappa reigned from A.D. 1434 to 1476. During his reign he came to the

Circars, conquered the country as far as Jagannad or Puri, to the entire appreciation of the Maharajah Gajapati, the then Maharajah of Jagannad or Cuttack. The country thus conquered extended from Jagannad on the north to Kondavati Seema in the south, and from Calingapatam on the east to Cheekati in the west. In one battle he killed 32 chiefs who combined together against him.

Mr. J. Talboys Wheeler in his History of India, in describing the battle of Bobbili of 1758, says:—

"The Raja of Bobbili claimed to be a Rajput of high descent, whose ancestors had fought under the ancient Maharajahs of Jagannath in the old mythical wars against the South."

Though Mr. Wheeler calls these wars mythical, yet as a myth contains a germ of truth, the germ in this case, as gathered from the Venkatagiri history, seems to be that Lingappa

conquered the Circars as shown above. Therefore, it is pretty certain that Pedda Rayadu's son Lingappa, whose name must have been misread or miswritten in the history of Venkatagiri, or changed by his father for his great ancestor's name, is the one who built the fort at Bobbili and resided there. Thus Pedda Rayadu becomes the founder of the Bobbili Raj, and Lingappa the second in generation. That Pedda Rayadu, who, it is said in the Venkatagiri history, was a strict follower of the Vishnavite religion, was the founder of the Bobbili Raj, is to a certain extent supported by the fact that the members of the Bobbili House have been strict Vishnavites.

I have shown and explained this account in detail to my brother, the present Rajah of Venkatagiri, K.C.I.E., Dr. J. Marsh, my old tutor, and several others, all of whom have concurred in my conclusions as above stated.

I.

THE FOUNDER OF THE SAMASTHANAM.

RAJAH PEDDA RAYADU BAHADUR GARU.

Nirvana Rayappa, generally called Pedda Rayadu, the fifteenth Rajah of the Venkatagiri Samasthanam, was one of two chiefs who arrived in the Northern Circars in the train of Sher Mahammad Khan, when that General came to conquer the country for the Mogul Government; and for his valuable services at that time was rewarded by the grant to him of the Rajam Samasthanam. The other chief was Madhava Varma, the founder of the Vizianagaram Samasthanam. With the Samasthanam Pedda Rayadu was granted the hereditary titles of Rajah and Bahadur, and the

right to use a white flag, Dhanka, Nowbat, and other insignia of royalty. After everything was settled in the Circars, he returned to his ancestral Raj of Venkatagiri, leaving the newly-obtained Raj to his son Lingappa.

II.

Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.

Rajah Lingappa selected the site of the old Bobbili Fort as his head-quarters, on account of the frequent disturbances along the foot of the hills, in which his services were constantly called for by the then Government. There he built a fort and town which he named Bebbooly, after the name of his patron, Sher Mahammad Khan (Sher means tiger; Bebbooly, a royal tiger), and resided there, as all the ancient Prabandhams say without the slightest difference amongst them. He also rendered important services in connection with the disturbances, then of frequent occurrence, in Bastar and other hill tracts. He obtained

the hereditary title of Ranga-Rao under the following circumstances:—

A son of Sher Mahammad Khan, Nawab of Chicacole, an agent to the Mogul Emperor, while out shooting, was seized and confined by a powerful Fittooridar at Rangavaka near Palasa in Ganjam. That part of the country, being covered with impenetrable clumps of bamboos, afforded no passage for the Nizam's cavalry. The Nawab, therefore, called for assistance from Rajah Lingappa Bahadur, who at once proceeded to Rangavaka with a strong force of his own, captured the Fittooridar in a single battle, rescued the boy, and restored him to his bereaved father. The result was that the Nawab commended the Zemindar to the favourable notice of the Emperor, who permitted Rajah Lingappa Bahadur to enjoy, free of peishcush, as many villages in his Zemindari as he could in one night adorn with festoons (thoranams). The villages in which he hung festoons were

twelve in number, and these, which are still known by the significant name of Potu-Gramamulu, are :—(1) Ampavilli, (2) Vantaram, (3) Gangada, (4) Antlavara, (5) Terlam, (6) Gangannapadu, (7) Vuttaravilli, (8) Narayanapuram, (9) Palagara, (10) Kancharam, (11) Gallavilli, (12) Vuddavolu.

At the same time he received from the Mogul Emperor the hereditary title Ranga-Rao (Lord Rangavaka). "Vaka" means an elevated flat surrounded by hills, usually a seat or resort of a Fittooridar. It has also another meaning "Victor in Battle." This title has since then been used by the Rajahs of Bobbili, as well as by all male members of the Bobbili family, after their names. It is also said that on another occasion he killed the chief of Hiramandalam.

In the Presidency Manual it is stated that the Bobbili Zemindari consists of five pergunnahs: Bobbili, Rajam, Kavitey, Sita-

nagaram, and Mettu-Gramamulu. There is, however, no such pergunnah as Mettu-Gramamulu. Mettu-Gramamulu means dry villages; and there are dry villages in every pergunnah. It is evident that the word Mettu-Gramamulu has been used in error for the word Potu-Gramamulu, as the Potu-Gramamulu above referred to were at that time and up to the death of the late Rajah (1868) managed as one pergunnah. The error is probably due to the writer of the Presidency Manual not knowing, or misunderstanding, the meaning of the word Potu, fight.

Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao having no male issue adopted Vengal Rao, the third son of Madhava Rao, a member of the Venkatagiri family.

III.

RAJAH VENGAL RANGA-RAO BAHADUR GARU.

Rajah Vengal Ranga-Rao was a child when his adoptive father died. So the estate was

managed first by his own father Madhava Rao, then by his eldest brother Padma Rao, and then by his elder brother Narappa Rao, from whom Rajah Vengal Ranga-Rao took charge of the estate on attaining his majority. He managed the estate remarkably well, formed some Agra-harams for Brahmins, and also dug tanks, which still bear either his name, that of his adoptive father, or that of Madhava Rao. Padma Rao and Narappa Rao, during their management, dug each some tanks bearing their respective names.

IV.

Rajah Rangapathi Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.

Rajah Rangapathi Ranga-Rao was of a charitable disposition and was very religious. There was nothing noteworthy in his reign, except that he made a pilgrimage to Srirangam and other places.

His younger brother, Rajah Janardana Ranga-Rao, generally called Pedda Janar-

dana Ranga-Rao, acquired the estate of Luckwarup-Cotah.

"(15). Luckwarup-Cotah, supposed formerly to have belonged to a branch of the Rungarow family, situated about ten coss west of Vizianagaram." (Fifth Report of the Select Committee, page 221, Vol. II., on the affairs of the East India Company).

At that time, and for many years afterwards, the estate of Kasimkota belonged to Chelikani Varu, relatives of Ravu Varu.

V.

Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.

Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao being a minor at the time of his father's death, the then Rajah Venkatapathi Ranga-Rao of Luckwarup-Cotah, son of Pedda Janardana Ranga-Rao above mentioned, managed the estate and ruled

it for some years. After the death of his son Janardana Ranga-Rao, who also managed the estate for a few years, Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao obtained possession of his ancestral estate and ruled it with ability and skill for several years.

VI.

Rajah Gopala Kristna Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.

Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao adopted Rajah Gopala Kristna Ranga-Rao, the eldest son of Ravu Gopala Rao. The second son was Vengala Ranga-Rao. Gopal Rao is said to have been a lineal descendant of the Bobbili family, but from whom this line has sprung is not clearly known. It was in this reign that the memorable attack on the Bobbili Fort by Rajah Pedda Viziaramaraz of Vizianagaram, assisted by the French under Bussy, was made in 1758.

The following account of the attack on Bobbili Fort, and of the circumstances which led to it, is extracted from "Orme's History of the Indostan" (Vol II., pages 254—260):—

"The first in rank of these Polygars, who all call themselves Rajahs, was Rangarao of Bobilee: the fort of this name stands close to the mountains about 140 miles N.E. of Vizagapatam; the districts are about twenty square miles. There had long been a deadly hatred between this Polygar and Vizeramrauze, whose person, how much soever he feared his power, Rangarao held in the utmost contempt, as of low extraction, and of new note. Districts belonging to Vizeramrauze adjoined to those of Bobilee, whose people diverted the water of the rivulets, and made depredations, which Vizeramrauze, for want of better military means, and from the nature of Rangarao's country, could not retaliate. Vizeramrauze used his utmost influence and arguments to persuade Mr. Bussy of the necessity of removing

this neighbour; and Mr. Bussy proposed that he should quit his hereditary ground of Bobilee, in exchange for other lands of greater extent and value, in another part of the province; but Rangarao treated the proposal as an insult. Soon after, it became necessary, to send a detachment of sepoys to some districts at a distance, to which the shortest road lay through some part of the woods of Bobilee: permission was obtained; but, either by some contrivance of Vizeramrauze, or the pre-determination of Rangarao, the detachment was sharply attacked and obliged to retire with the loss of 30 sepoys killed and more wounded. Vizeramrauze improved this moment of indignation; and Mr. Bussy, not foreseeing the terrible event to which he was proceeding, determined to reduce the whole country, and to expel the Polygar and all his family.

"The Province of Chicacole has few extensive plains, and its hills increase in frequency and magnitude as they approach the vast range

of mountains that bound this and the Province of Rajahmundrum to the N. W. The hills and the narrower bottoms which separate them are suffered to overrun with wood, as the best protection to the opener valleys allotted for cultivation. The Polygar, besides his other towns and forts, has always one situated in the most difficult part of his country, which is intended as the last refuge for himself and all of his own blood. The singular construction of this fort is adequate to all the intentions of defence amongst a people unused to cannon, or other means of battery. Its outline is a regular square, which rarely exceeds 200 yards; a large round tower is raised at each of the angles, and a square projection in the middle of each of the sides. The height of the wall is 22 feet, but of the rampart within only 12, which is likewise its breadth at top, although it is laid much broader at bottom; the whole is of tempered clay, raised in distinct layers, of which each is left exposed to the sun,

until thoroughly hardened, before the next is applied. The parapet rises 10 feet above the rampart, and is only three feet thick. It is indented five feet down from the top in interstices six inches wide, which are three or four feet asunder. A foot above the bottom of these interstices and battlements runs a line of round holes, another two feet lower, and a third within 2 feet of the rampart. These holes are, as usual, formed with pipes of baked clay: they serve for the employment of fire-arms, arrows, and lances; and the interstices for the freer use of all these arms, instead of loop-holes, which cannot be inserted or cut in the clay. The towers, and the square projections in the middle, have the same parapet as the rest of the wall; and in two of the projections on opposite sides of the fort are gateways, of which the entrance is not in the front, but on one side, from whence it continues through half the mass, and then turns by a right angle into the place; and, on any

alarm, the whole passage is choked up with trees, and the outside surrounded to some distance with a thick bed of strong brambles. The rampart and parapet is covered by a shed of strong thatch supported by posts; the eaves of this shed project over the battlements, but fall so near that a man can scarcely squeeze his body between. This shed is shelter both to the rampart and guards against the sun and rain. An area of 500 yards, or more, in every direction round the fort, is preserved clear, of which the circumference joins the high wood, which is kept thick, three, four, or five miles in breadth around this centre. Few of these forts permit more than one path through the wood. The entrance of the path from without is defended by a wall, exactly similar in construction and strength to one of the sides of the fort, having its round towers at the ends, and the square projection with its gateway in the middle. From natural sagacity they never raise this redoubt on the

edge of the wood; but at the bottom of a recess, cleared on purpose, and on each side of the recess, raise breastworks of earth or hedge, to gall the approach. The path admits only three men abreast, winds continually; is everywhere commanded by breastworks in the thicket, and has in its course several redoubts, similar to that of the entrance, and like that flanked by breastworks on each hand. Such were the defences of Bobilee, against which Mr. Bussy marched with 750 Europeans, of whom 250 were horse, four field pieces, and 11,000 peons and sepoys, the army of Vizeramrauze, who commanded them in person.

"Whilst the field-pieces plied the parapet of the first redoubt at the entrance of the wood, detachments entered into the side of the recess with fire and hatchet, and began to make a way, which tended to bring them in the rear of the redoubt; and the guard, as soon as convinced of their danger, abandoned their station

and joined those in the posts behind; the same operations continued through the whole path, which was five miles in length, and with the same success, although not without loss. When in sight of the fort, Mr. Bussy divided his troops into four divisions, allotting one, with the field-piece, to the attack of each of the towers. Ranga Row was here, with all his parentage, 250* men bearing arms, and nearly twice this number of women and children.

"The attack commenced at daybreak, on the 24th of January, with the field-pieces against the four towers; and the defenders, lest fire might catch the thatch of the rampart, had pulled it down. By nine o'clock, several of the battlements were broken, when all

* This number is evidently not correct. In the other histories it is said there were 4,000 men and 1,000 Velamas. If the duration of the battle, which lasted from the early morning till the evening, be considered, it would appear impossible for a small force of 250 men to have defended the fort for so long a time against the large combined army which attacked it.

the leading parties of the four divisions advanced at the same time, with scaling ladders; but after much endeavour for an hour, not a man had been able to get over the parapet; and many had fallen wounded; other parties followed with as little success, until all were so fatigued that a cessation was ordered, during which the field-pieces, having beaten down more of the parapet, gave the second attack more advantage; but the ardour of the defence increased with the danger. The garrison fought with the indignant ferocity of wild beasts, defending their dens and families: several of them stood, as in defiance, on the top of the battlements, and endeavoured to grapple with the first ascendants, hoping with them to twist the ladders down; and this failing, stabbed with their lances, but being wholly exposed themselves, were easily shot by aim from the rear of the escalade. The assailants admired, for no Europeans had ever seen such excess of

courage in the natives of Indostan, and continually offered quarter, which was always answered by the menace and intention of death : not a man had gained the rampart at two o'clock in the afternoon, when another cessation of the attack ensued ; on which Ranga Row assembled the principal men, told them there was no hope of maintaining the fort, and that it was immediately necessary to preserve their wives and children from the violation of the Europeans, and the more ignominious authority of Vizeramrauze. A number called without distinction were allotted to the work ; they proceeded, every man with a torch, his lance, and poignard, to the habitations in the middle of the fort, to which they set fire indiscriminately, plying the flame with straw prepared with pitch and brimstone, and every man stabbed, without remorse, the woman or child, whichsoever attempted to escape the flame and suffocation Not the helpless infant, clinging to the bosom of its

mother, saved the life of either from the hand of the husband and father. The utmost excesses, whether of revenge or rage, were exceeded by the atrocious prejudices which dictated and performed this horrible sacrifice. The massacre being finished, those who accomplished it returned, like men agitated by the furies, to die themselves on the walls. Mr. Law, who commanded one of the divisions, observed, whilst looking at the conflagration, that the number of the defenders was considerably diminished, and advanced again to the attack: after several ladders had failed, a few grenadiers got over the parapet, and maintained their footing in the tower until more secured the possession. Ranga Row hastening to the defence of the tower, was in this instant killed by a musket-ball. His fall increased, if possible, the desperation of his friends; who, crowding to revenge his death, left the other parts of the ramparts bare; and the other divisions of the French troops, having advanced

likewise to their respective attacks, numbers on all sides got over the parapet without opposition Nevertheless, none of the defenders quitted the rampart, or would accept quarter; but each fell advancing against, or struggling with, an antagonist; and even when fallen, and in the last agony, would resign his poignard only to death. The slaughter of the conflict being completed, another much more dreadful presented itself in the area below: the transport of victory lost all its joy: all gazed on one another with silent astonishment and remorse, and the fiercest could not refuse a tear to the deplorable destruction spread before them. Whilst contemplating it, an old man leading a boy was perceived advancing from a distant recess: he was welcomed with much attention and respect, and conducted by the crowd to Mr. Law, to whom he presented the child with these words · 'This is the son of Ranga Row, whom I have preserved against his father's will.' Another emotion now

succeeded, and the preservation of this infant was felt by all as some alleviation to the horrible catastrophe of which they had been the unfortunate authors. The tutor and the child were immediately sent to Mr. Bussy, who, having heard of the condition of the fort, would not go into it, but remained in his tent, where he received the sacred captives with the humanity of a guardian appointed by the strongest claims of nature, and immediately commanded patents to be prepared, appointing the son lord of the territory which he had offered the father in exchange for the districts of Bobilee; and ordered them to be strictly guarded in the camp from the malevolence of enemies.

"The ensuing night and the two succeeding days passed in the usual attentions, especially the care of the wounded, who were many; but in the middle of the third night, the camp was alarmed by a tumult in the quarter of Vizeramrauze. Four of the soldiers of Ranga Row,

on seeing him fall, concealed themselves in an unfrequented part of the fort until the night was far advanced, when they dropped down the walls, and speaking the same language, passed unsuspected through the quarters of Vizeramrauze, and gained the neighbouring thickets; where they remained the two succeeding days, watching until the bustle of the camp had subsided; when two of them quitted their retreat, and having by their language again deceived those by whom they were questioned, got near the tent of Vizeramrauze; then creeping on the ground they passed under the back part, and entering the tent found him lying on his bed, alone, and asleep. Vizeramrauze was extremely corpulent, insomuch that he could scarcely rear himself from his seat without assistance: the two men, restraining their very breath, struck in the same instant with their poignards at his heart; the first groan brought in a sentinel, who fired, but missed; more immediately thronged in, but the murderers,

heedless of themselves, cried out, pointing to the body, 'Look here! we are satisfied.' They were instantly shot by the crowd, and mangled after they had fallen; but had stabbed Vizeramrauze in 32 places. Had they failed, the other two remaining in the forest were bound by the same oath to perform the deed, or perish in the attempt."

One of the two who stabbed Viziaramaraz was a Sirdar of Ranga-Rao named Tandra Papayya, who had the charge of the fort at Rajam, and who with three others hastened to Bobbili, when he heard of the destruction of the fort, swearing to wreak vengeance on the author of that destruction.

It must be mentioned here that Vengal Rao, brother of Ranga-Rao, took a very prominent part in the defence of the fort and fought with increased fierceness after the fall of his brother.

During the battle Vengal Rao, who armed himself with a spear, is said to have challenged

to single combat, and killed, a Sirdar of the Nizam's forces, who, armed with a sword, mounted himself on a charger. The two opposing forces anxiously observed the duel from a distance. Vengal Rao was severely wounded in the head, and lay unconscious in the fort from the effects of the wound until the battle ended. Afterwards he went to Rajam with his nephew, and till his death in 1765 remained a determined opponent to the authority of the Pusapatis. The valour displayed in this Bobbili battle is greatly praised in "Rangaraya Charitra" and in ballads which are sung up to the present day in every part of the Telugu-speaking country.

There is also something said about the battle in a Persian book called " Hadekhath Alam," written by Meer Abdul Kasim (A. D. 1796). It was again lithographed in 1848 by the permission of Serajal Mulck Bahadur. The author, Abdul Kasim, generally known as Meer Aleem, was the Prime-minister of Nizamalli

Khan Bahadur and also of his son Sekenderja Bahadur. He was also the head of Sir Salur-Jung's family. The book contains the History of the Nizams of Hyderabad. In it, in page 231, it is stated as follows :—

"Some battles were fought between Viziaramaraz and the Zemindar Ranga Row of Velama family, who had 700 infantry of the Velama people. Afterwards Viziaramaraz went with M. Bussy to fight against the Zemindar Ranga Row, fought with him and killed all his caste people."

Again, and in the same page, it runs as follows :—

"In the battle 700 brave Velamas desperately fought with the Rajputs and the French troops and killed many of them before they themselves were killed."

It may not be out of place to quote here some translations of Extracts from the Local

Records, maintained in Fort St. George, about the enmity, and some of the battles fought between Bobbili and Vizianagaram before the great battle at Bobbili.

"When Viziaramaraz was sending his army through the Bobbili Zemindari under Saki Narayanaraz to conquer Narayanapatnam, which is about five miles north-east of Parvatipur, Ranga Row's forces attacked those of Vizianagaram to prevent them from passing through the Bobbili Raj and defeated them.

"Afterwards Viziaramaraz collected all his forces together with those of some of the Polygars under him and attacked Bobbili. In this battle Viziaramaraz was defeated and was pursued by the Bobbili army till he took refuge in the fort at Kumila, which was the former capital of the Vizianagaram Raj.

"Again, with the intention of taking revenge on Bobbili, Viziaramaraz built a fort at Belgam near Parvatipur and entered into intrigues

with the Bobbili people. From here he subdued the chief of Narayanapatnam, and attacked Bobbili, but without result. In these expeditions and battles Vizianagaram lost four thousand men, either in the way of fighting or by the malarious fever caught by the drinking of bad water at Narayanapatnam. The chief of Narayanapatnam sent his vakil to Vizianagaram to represent that he fought with Vizianagaram, believing what Bobbili Varu promised him, that he now tendered his apology, and that he begged that his estate might be restored to him. Thereupon Viziaramaraz pardoned him, collected from him the batta expenses of the army, and restored his estate to him.

"Again, Viziaramaraz got all his army ready and collected the Desastulu (fighting men in the Raj) to invade Bobbili. But the Desastulu said that it would be quite impossible for them to gain victory over the Velamas, who combined together with a

determined intention to fight to the last. Then the Dewan Burra Butchenna persuaded the Rajah not to go himself with the army, but to send Pusapati Ramachandraraj in his stead. The Rajah accepted his Dewan's advice and sent his army to Bobbili. There all the Velama Doralu and noted hill-tribes attacked the enemy with a firm determination to fight to the last. They thought that unless Viziaramaraz was killed, the unceasing attacks on Bobbili would never cease even with the sacrifice of their lives. In this battle they killed all the enemy in front of the elephant on which Ramachandraraj seated himself in an Ambari (hooded-howdah), and stabbed him to death with long spears. But to their surprise they found that he was not the Rajah and so did not rejoice in their victory, as they themselves lost many of their bravest men. They then beheaded Ramachandraraj, put Vishnava marks on his forehead and sent it back to Vizianagaram."

Then comes the account of the last and great battle at Bobbili as found in the local records, somewhat similar to the account quoted above.

The purport of an account of the battle of Bobbili as given in the Kaifiyyat of Barabatti Kristna Deo Gajapathi, the Rajah of Cuttack.

"In the year Yuva, corresponding to the 1677th year of the era of Salivahana, Mir Nizamalli Khan Bahadur, the Nawab of Golconda, conferred the Commander-in-Chiefship of Kalinga on M. Bussy, and appointed Haidar Jang as his Dewan. The Nawab placed in his charge a very large army, and directed him to restore order and peace in the country, and to fill the treasury with the tributes collected from the Zemindars of the Circars.

"Leaving Golconda, Bussy passed Masulipatam on his way, and then crossing the

Godaveri encamped at the Kotilingams (Kotipalli) near Rajahmundry. He then directed his Dewan to issue orders to all the Zemindars of the Circars that they should come out of their estates to pay their respects to him. The Faramanas accordingly prepared by Haidar Jang were forwarded to the Zemindars concerned.

"In obedience to the summons, Viziaramaraz, Rajah of Vizianagaram, went to the camp of Bussy, followed by forty thousand infantry and four thousand cavalry. So also went many another Zemindar and Proprietor. Only the Zemindar of Bobbili was conspicuous by his absence. Ranga-Rao learnt that Viziaramaraz, who bore in his heart his successive failures to capture the fort of Bobbili, and who cherished a vindictive spirit towards Bobbili, was the first to pay his humble visit to the Commander-in-Chief only to induce the latter to help him to gratify his vindictiveness and to achieve his long-cherished object; and so

he anticipated inevitable collision with his enemy, the Rajah, in case he should also go there. It was for this reason that Bobbili put off his visit, intending to pay his respects to the French Commander-in-Chief at a future date.

"When Bussy was attended by his Dewan, Viziaramaraz paid his respects to him, and after a short formal conversation, represented that he would pay the permanently fixed amount of twelve lacs of rupees, and requested him to return to Golconda. The Commander-in-Chief having replied that they must go as far as Chicacole before they returned, the Rajah who wished to turn to his advantage their march to Chicacole by instigating them to join him against Ranga-Rao, led away Haidar Jang from his master's presence, and offered him the tempting bribe of three lacs of rupees to induce Bussy to help him in obtaining a certain object of his. The Dewen having shown an inclination to accept the

offer, the Rajah introduced the subject by saying:—'Ranga-Rao frequently raises insurrections in our country and obstructs the proper cultivation of our lands. The payment of the revenue in kind or in money is greatly hindered. He has under his control an army of four thousand men and a band of one thousand Velama warriors. Never has he surrendered to us in spite of our repeated attacks on Bobbili.' 'We have often heard,' said Haidar Jang, 'that you have, under your control, a mighty army, and that you are a warrior of no ordinary type. Do you really fear any danger from him?' 'Do not think so,' rejoined the Rajah; 'it is but true that we have a large army. But he has a Sirdar named Tandra Papayya, who alone is enough to throw the whole army into confusion. With the help of this Sirdar, the Zemindar of Bobbili sets us at defiance, and even the Commander-in-Chief. This will be evident if you only consider the fact that even when we who have

been so famous for strength and courage have implicitly obeyed your summons, he has not thought fit to pay his respects to you in answer to your call. I need not say any more on the matter.'

"Roused by the inflaming words of the Rajah, Haidar Jang exclaimed, 'For us who have conquered so many countries, you seem to say it is a great matter to overcome Ranga-Rao, who is but a common Zemindar of a hilly tract. God help it, we shall reduce Bobbili and instal you as its lord.' He then touched his sword and swore to do it without fail.

"Ranga-Rao having heard, by means of his spies, the details of conversation between Haidar Jang and the Rajah, summoned to his presence such principal Velama Doras as Damera Dammanna, Inuganti Rangayya, and Kandimalla Dharmarayadu, and said to them, 'We hear that Bussy, the Commander-in-Chief, is coming to Kalinga; and Haidar Jang, it

appears, assured Viziaramaraz that he would subdue us and instal him as the master of our Zemindari. The Rajah is elated with joy that he will rule over our estate. Bussy has become the supreme master of this country and hence has come to rule over it. It is true that the Rajah and ourselves are enemies ; but there has not been any enmity between Bussy and ourselves. Then why would Bussy carry arms against our fort at the instigation of the Rajah ? Let us, however, send a Vakil of ours to Haidar Jang to sound his heart. We shall then adopt what steps may appear advisable. We have, moreover, a real friend in M. Cummander who is acquainted with our sense of dignity. We can get him to write letters to M. Bussy and Haidar Jang to say that he is responsible for all political matters so far as Bobbili is concerned, and that it is against the principles of political justice to wage war against us at the instigation of Viziaramaraz.'

" In accordance with this deliberation, he wrote letters to Bussy and Haidar Jang, and entrusting them to Panthena Butchenna, despatched him with the following instructions:—'Go to Haidar Jang and sound his feelings towards us. If you do not find him favourably inclined to us, you will then go to Masulipatam, pay your respects to M. Cummander and fully representing to him the state of matters through Maddala Reddinayadu, the interpreter, deliver this letter to him. Get letters written to Bussy and Haidar Jang to keep up the usual relations with us; and after they peruse the letters, mark if any change is effected in their attitude towards us.'

" Meanwhile Haidar Jang, who had been won over by the Rajah, approached Bussy to persuade him to help the Rajah against Ranga-Rao, and spoke thus : 'Ranga-Rao, the Zemindar of Bobbili, a plain region in Kalinga, is raising riots in the country. He obstructs the collection of rent due to Viziaramaraz. If,

therefore, we should drive him out of his fort, and instal the Rajah in his place, the disturbances would be stopped, order would be restored in the country, and the revenue due to the Government would be conveniently collected. That Ranga-Rao is defiant and contemptuous towards you is best proved by the fact of his abstaining from coming to pay his respects to you, while so many Zemindars have come here in obedience to our summonses.' By means of such arguments he convinced Bussy of the necessity of reducing Bobbili and installing Viziaramaraz there.

"Panthena Butchenna had reached Peddapuram by the time that Bussy had arrived at that place. The Vakil whom Ranga-Rao had deputed to sound the feelings of Haidar Jang towards himself then paid his visit to Bussy's Dewan, who having learnt that he was a Vakil come from Bobbili, thus accosted him, 'What business could you have here, seeing that your lord feared nothing from us, and so

has not come to cultivate our friendship? Go back to your master.' The Vakil finding him very angry, and unwilling to remain there any more, addressed him thus:—'The Ravu Varu are entirely innocent, and towards the Circar are implicitly obedient. The evil design that you harbour towards them at the instigation of some person, you will be persuaded to give up only when the person who is competent to check you in your procedure restrains and censures you.' Then the Agent rose up from his seat, and before he left the place, once more tried to pacify him with the following conciliatory words:—'Ranga-Rao has hesitated to come here because Viziaramaraz, his enemy, was the first to come. But if you should promise to treat the Ravus with the same respect which you show to the rest of the Zemindars, Ranga-Rao would before long pay his respects to you.' 'No, he need not come to us,' said Haidar Jang, 'he must vacate the fort.' 'The Ravus will not leave the fort so long as

they live,' replied Butchenna; 'and for this evil design of yours, strictly you are not to blame, for it is some ill-adviser that tempts you to act thus. You will give up these bad thoughts, only when those who are in a position to check you persuade you to do so.' Then the Agent left the place for Masulipatam in accordance with his master's instructions.

"Thereupon Haidar Jang despatched a pair of scouts to Bobbili to bring him information as to the paths to Bobbili, the extent of the plain before the fort, the forest in its vicinity, and the strength of the fort. They were also entrusted with letters to Ranga-Rao, asking him to vacate the fort. Ranga-Rao, having read the contents of the letters, gave expression to his feelings in the following words:—'Shall we, with life, ever leave the fort? We shall leave our lives and fort simultaneously.' He then prepared replies to the same effect, and having given presents to the messengers, directed Damera Dammanna to accompany

them to Haidar Jang to try once more if reconciliation was possible. Dammanna assured Bussy's Dewan that, if he should promise to renew the lease, Ranga-Rao, who put off his visit for no other reason than his fear that his enemy might play Bussy against him, would ere long pay his respects to them. But Haidar Jang, whose heart continued proof against any such arguments, sent Dammanna back to Bobbili with no better answer than he had given before.

"Meanwhile Butchenna, whose endeavours to conciliate Haidar Jang had failed at Rajahmundry, directed his steps to Masulipatam, where he paid his respects to M. Cummander, and had the whole story represented to him through Maddala Reddi Nayadu. The French General felt sorry to hear it and then wrote to Bussy a letter, the contents of which ran as follows:—'If it should be known to the world that the French, instigated by the Rajah of Vizianagaram, attacked the fort of Bobbili

without any offence on the part of Ranga-Rao, and thereby caused great loss and injury to him, our nation would be exposed to a great deal of infamy. I, therefore, advise you not to adopt this line of rash and imprudent procedure which would certainly make us liable to much blame and bad repute.' Entrusting the letter to the Vakil, he commanded a countryman of his, one M. Martin, to accompany Butchenna, and to tell Bussy in his name the following words of good advice: 'Viziaramaraz has always sought to bring Ranga-Rao into troubles; but as the latter is a great warrior, and has a high sense of dignity and honour, he has never once yielded to his enemy. The Rajah, bearing this in his heart, instigates you to take action against him. And if you should act up to his ill-advice and carry arms against the fort, the Velama Doras, who have high notions of self-respect, especially the Ravus, who are famous for their keen sense of honour, Ranga-Rao being

the chief of them, will not let you return with safety ; if you should at all return with life, all the residents in the fort, including men, women and children, will have certainly perished to a man before you can do so. The ultimate result would in that case be the unquestionable liability of the French to much blame and gross infamy. Do not, therefore, attack their fort at the Rajah's instigation.' According to his master's orders, M. Martin, accompanied by Butchenna, reached Kasimkotah, where Bussy lay encamped, and, after the Vakil delivered the letter, fully represented to Bussy what M. Cummander had directed him to do. The Commander-in-Chief, after having perused the letter and heard Martin's representations, called Haidar Jang near and thus remarked : 'As M. Cummander is a great friend of mine, and is as worthy of my honour as my teacher, I must abide by his good counsels.' He also read out to Haidar Jang M. Cummander's letter, on hearing

which the Dewan said nothing in reply as if its contents had met with his approbation. On the third day after that, Martin returned to Masulipatam. The very evening of that day the Rajah went to Haidar Jang's tent and thus spoke to him: 'Do you not now find a strong attestation to my remarks about Ranga-Rao? He has sent, you know, his Vakil to M. Cummander, by whom he had a letter written to Bussy, besides prevailing upon him to send a special messenger to speak on his behalf. But he has not at all thought fit to come and pay his respects to you. It is now manifest how defiant he is in his attitude towards you.' Haidar Jang, whose wrath and vindictiveness were still further roused by the Rajah's inflaming words, mentally confirmed the resolution he had already formed to put an end to the Zemindari of Bobbili.

"When M. Bussy left Kasimkotah and encamped at Devupalli (near Gajapathinagaram), Chelikani Venkayya, who was sent with

Chittela Ramanna to present *pan supari* to the Commander-in-Chief and his Dewan (probably a mark of respect in those days), visited Haidar Jang, who, his wrath being kindled at seeing him, thus accosted the Velama Dora: 'Has your master left the fort with all his people, old and young, or does he still occupy it?' 'In what way have we offended the Circar,' replied Venkayya, identifying himself with his lord, 'to be thus ordered to vacate the fort? Are we guilty of leaving in arrears the peishcush due to the Government; or have we resisted the demand of the peishcush by the Circar?' Unmindful of the Velama Dora's relevant questions, Haidar Jang angrily declared that the fort must be vacated by Ranga-Rao. Then Venkayya, remarking that Haidar Jang's unreasonable enmity to the Zemindar of Bobbili must only be a continuation of the feelings of hostility that he might have cherished in a previous life, and that it could in no other way be accounted for, took leave

of him and returned to Bobbili. He then represented to his lord that his fighting was inevitable, and that Haidar Jang would not accede to terms according to any principles of political justice.

"Bussy then left Devupalli and arriving at the destination, encamped himself at about a gunshot in front of the fort. Ranga-Rao, who observed the enemy, sent for all his Velama Doras and other fighters; and having made his preparations for fighting, he ordered Naubath to be played on the Naubathkhana. Haidar Jang, who heard the sound, asked Hussain Ali Khan what the sound was, and was told in reply that it was the Naubath played on the ramparts of the fort at the orders of the Zemindar. Haidar Jang, whose anger was roused at hearing the sound, deputed Hussain Ali Khan to direct the master of Bobbili to have the playing stopped, and to vacate the fort, as the Commander-in-Chief lay encamped in front of it. The Mahommedan

Sirdar, having accordingly gone into the fort to deliver the message, was received by Ranga-Rao with due respect and courtesy, and after a short formal conversation, fully represented to the Zemindar what he was directed to do. The Velama lord, whose feelings were bitterly wounded at the contents of the message, gave the following unambiguous reply: 'Sir, the Naubath was granted to us by the Moghul Emperor, but was neither stolen nor unjustly wrested by force from anybody. We, therefore, do not see why we should lose our long-enjoyed privilege of the play of the Naubath on our rampart. As to our leaving the fort, let it be observed that, even when the direst calamities befell us, we never left this place for any other, and that we have here enjoyed all kinds of prosperity and affluence. We have, moreover, never incurred the displeasure of the Circar, that we should thus be ordered to leave the fort for good. But if you should think it desirable to mark the difference be-

tween the valour of Viziaramaraz and that of ourselves, you can adopt the following plan. Let the yellow banner of the Circar be placed in the charge and protection of Viziaramaraz at the head of his forty thousand sepoys. If we should then succeed in wresting it from his possession with the help of our small force which consists of only four thousand, be then pleased to make us masters of his Zemindari. If, on the other hand, we should fail to take the flag from him, you may then do what you please with us and our Zemindari. But if your favour depend on the amounts of the bids offered, we bind ourselves to pay twice the amount the Rajah has offered to pay, in case you should promise to give away to us the Rajah's fort and estate. We suggest a third course for your consideration. Let the Rajah with his forty thousand fight with us who have but four thousand men at our command. If, in the battle, we should suffer a defeat, let Bobbili be given away to the Rajah. If, on the contrary,

the Rajah should be routed by us, let his estate and fort be ours. But, if you will take into your consideration none of the above proposals, let this be borne in mind that we are determined not to surrender the fort so long as we live.' Hussain Ali Khan then returned to the camp and intimated to Haidar Jang that Ranga-Rao would neither stop the play of the Naubath nor vacate the fort, and that, if his fort should unjustly be attacked, he would offer his utmost resistance. He also mentioned to him the alternative proposals that Ranga-Rao made for the consideration of Haidar Jang. The latter, who, without weighing the proposals, only burnt with increased rage at the Zemindar's last words of defiance, exclaimed : 'If that is the case, I shall see that he is presently expelled from the fort.' His burning words were immediately supported by the Rajah who was near. Thereupon Hussain Ali Khan, who knew the whole truth, said to Haidar Jang : 'Should you be guided by the

instigating words of Viziaramaraz and attack the fort of Ranga-Rao, who is a well-to-do Zemindar possessing a keen sense of dignity, honourable, and at the same time innocent, do you think you can make him surrender the fort without the loss of a great many lives? Would not all the residents of the fort, from the oldest person to the youngest, have fallen to a man before you should be able to force entrance into the fort? Do not, therefore, undertake to commit such a horrible deed; for Nemesis will before long make you suffer the consequences of such an atrocity.' But Haidar Jang was deaf to all such words of warning and advice. He and his instigator then approached Bussy and told him that Ranga-Rao would not surrender unless and until their artillery should open fire upon the fort. The Commander-in-Chief having granted permission, the attack commenced." (Here follows a description of the battle, which is here omitted, the description given in Orme's *History of the Indostan* being superior).

" When the cannon balls were found to be committing havoc on the inner apartments of the fort, Ranga-Rao called the Velama leaders together and said, 'The danger has passed beyond its limits. The army of the enemy is vast. It shall, therefore, be our look-out at present to guard our honour and win everlasting glory. Let Chelikani Venkayya go into the inner apartments and completely do away with women and children.' The Velama warrior went in faithful to his master's order, and observing the wife of Ranga-Rao sit with her son in her lap, simply told her that the enemy's army approached too near. No sooner had he said so than the honour-loving consort of Ranga-Rao entrusted her son to a female servant with a request to take him out of the fort and save him, then praying to God, uttered curses on Viziaramaraz, then planting a sword in the ground, threw herself upon it and died. Venkayya then thoroughly made away with the rest of the women. At the same

moment a hundred Velama families related to the ruling family and residing in the fort met a similar fate. Ranga-Rao's son, while he was being taken out through a private entrance, fell into the hands of a sepoy of the opposite party, and was taken to Bussy, who took all care of him.

"After Tandra Papayya killed Viziaramaraju, Bussy, struck with wonder at the daring of Papayya, admired his loyalty to his master; and then calling near him Ranga-Rao's brother and son, he granted them permission to rule over their ancient estate as usual, and in addition bestowed upon them the Jaghir of Kottapalli."

A short account of this battle is also given in the following histories:—

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, by W. W. Hunter, Vol. XIII., in pages 484, 485.

2. *Cyclopædia of India*, by E. Balfour, Vol. II., page 271.

3. *Malcolm's Life of Lord Clive*, Vol. II., pages 2--4.

VII.

Rajah Venkata Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.

(1794--1801).

Rajah Venkata Ranga-Rao (born on the 14th October, 1751), the son, and the only surviving member of the family, of Rajah Gopala Kristna Ranga-Rao Bahadur, was saved by an old man contrary to his father's wishes, from the fate which overtook the rest of the family during the disastrous battle of Bobbili at which his father was killed. He was then a lad of very tender years (about 3 or 4 years old), and was presented by the old man, his tutor, to Mr. Law on the battlefield, whilst the latter, with the remainder of his army, was contem-

plating the slaughter spread before him. M. Bussy received the sacred captives, the boy and the tutor, "with the humanity of a guardian appointed by the strongest claims of Nature, and ordered them to be strictly guarded in the camp from the malevolence of their enemies." It is also said that M. Bussy appointed the young Rajah lord of the territories (which, however, have not been named in any documents now available) which had previously been offered to his father in exchange for the districts of Bobbili. However, after the whole affair was over, his uncle Vengal Rao, who was wounded in the battle, regained by force of arms the estates of Kavitey and Rajam, and lived at Rajam a determined opponent to the authority of the Pusapatis and doing everything in his power to effect the recovery of the entire Zemindari of Bobbili, until his death in 1765. Chinna Ranga-Rao, as Venkata Ranga-Rao was called by the historians, also lived at this time at Rajam under his uncle's care.

Till then it seems that according to the "Settlement of Bussy in the year 1757," the estate of Luckwarup-Cotah was under the Bobbili Samasthanam. In the above book M. Bussy calls Venkata Ranga-Rao Sirdar of Bobbili and Luckwarup-Cotah. It is stated in the Madras Manual that, after Vengal Rao's death, the Vizianagaram family at last compromised with their rivals and leased the Kavitey and Rajam pergunnahs to them, but this can scarcely be believed from the other information available, and for the following reasons. By this supposed compromise Chinna Ranga-Rao, instead of receiving any consideration from the hands of the Vizianagaram family, would lose the absolute right over these pergunnahs, which had been regained by force of arms by his uncle, and would become a subsidiary chief under Vizianagaram. Moreover, if the Vizianagaram family had secured proprietary rights over those pergunnahs, why did Dewan Sitarama Raj invite

Chinna Ranga-Rao to Vizianagaram on some pretext and keep him there under restraint?

Chinna Ranga-Rao lived at Rajam under his uncle Vengal Rao's care till 1765, and afterwards was under the care of another relative, Inuganti Chinna Narasayya. While he was under the guardianship of the latter, Sitarama Raj, the brother and Dewan of Chinna Viziaramaraz, a grandson of Pedda Viziaramaraz, endeavoured to get hold of Chinna Ranga-Rao, and several times invited him to Vizianagaram, promising to re-assign to him the Bobbili and Sitanagaram pergunnahs, which had been annexed to the Vizianagaram Zemindari after the battle of Bobbili. These invitations were, however, not accepted, and for several years Inuganti Chinna Narasayya was able to influence Chinna Ranga-Rao and to make him disbelieve the promises held forth; but at last, when he had attained the age of fifteen, he neglected his relative's advice and went to Vizianagaram,

where he was detained for nearly two years. After he was taken to Vizianagaram, the Kavitey and Rajam pergunnahs came under the Pusapatis till Chinna Ranga-Rao was restored to his ancestral Zemindari. He then fled to Samarlakota, where his aunt, Jaggamma, a sister of Mallammadevi, who was killed at the battle of Bobbili, was living with her husband, Niladri Rao Bahadur Garu, the then Rajah of Pittapur, who, for fear of Ananda Raz, had left Pittapur and lived at Samarlakota. Here Chinna Ranga-Rao stayed for a few days till some of the Velama Doralu and Telagas were called from Bobbili, and then went to Haidarabad, and stayed there for many years. By the time he succeeded in gaining the good-will of tne Nizam, the authority of the English Company was established in the Northern Circars (1794). Then he was called back by the Collector of the Northern Division, to whom, it is said, he brought letters of recommendation from the Nizam, and was restored

to his ancestral estate with all the honours and privileges enjoyed by his predecessors, the former Rajahs of Bobbili. It is also said that the Nizam presented him a horse with Dhanka when he took leave of him. He built for himself a fort at Bobbili, now called the Old Fort, about a mile from the site of the Old Fort where the battle took place. The Dewan-Khana, the upstair house, and the zenana apartments close to it, which he built, are still in good order. His rule, which extended over seven years, was chiefly remarkable for the many agraharams he formed, for the large irrigation tanks he dug, and for the gardens he laid out. Nearly all the tanks west of Bhyrisagaram and Padmarayaningari Cheruvu were dug in his days. Mallamma Cheruvu, Mallamma Peta, and Mallamma Tope owe their existence to him, and bear the name of his mother, Mallammadevi. Being childless, he adopted a boy named Rayadappa from the Ravu family of Palteru, which was supposed

to be a branch of the Bobbili family. He died on the 7th March, 1802.

VIII.

Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.

1802—1830.

Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao was born on the 4th January, 1790, and was in his thirteenth year when he was adopted. His adoptive mother, Chinnamma Garu, a lady of the Kotagiri family, raised an objection to his adoption, which led to a voluminous correspondence between the Collector and the Government, but owing to the able representations made by his paternal uncle, Ravu Venkatarayadu Garu, his adoption was ultimately recognised by the Government. Great efforts were made at this time by the Pusapatis to get his country incorporated with Vizianagaram; but their

prayer was rejected ;* and he obtained from the Government a Permanent Cowle, or Sunnad-Mulk-et-Istimirar, dated 21st October, 1803. He formed many agraharams, established chattrams at Rajam and Bobbili, and did many other charitable acts. He dug several tanks, of which Rangaraya Sagaram is the largest.

The following account of an interview between the Rajah and Sir Thomas Munro is taken from the Minutes of Consultation of His Excellency. (*Vide* Selections from Minutes and other official writings of Major-General Sir Thomas Munro, Bart., K.C.B., by Sir A. J. Arbuthnot, page 188, para. 9).

"The Bobbili Raja met me at Suparnam, a large weaving village in his own zemindari. He came on his elephant, attended by his brother-in-law and another person employed in his service chiefly as a legal adviser, on account of his supposed knowledge of the

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* *Vide* Carmichael's Manual.

Regulations. The Raja is an active, intelligent man, and manages and looks minutely into all his own affairs. He answered with great readiness every question I put to him on the state of his country. He said that it was divided into four parganás in three of which he collected his rents in money, and in the fourth in grain ; that his settlements were made ryotwari, except in a few small villages, which were rented at a fixed sum to the heads of the village ; that he gave every ryot a pottah specifying the amount of his land and his rent ; that the rent was fixed, not varying with the seasons, though he frequently in bad seasons granted some remission to the poorer ryots ; that the rent which he received in kind in one parganá was not a share of the crop, but a fixed quantity of grain from each ryot, according to the nature and extent of his land ; and that he treated his ryots well, as was evident from none of them ever bringing complaints against him before the Court On my asking him how the state of

cultivation in his country was at present, compared to what it had been when he succeeded to the zemindari, he said that there was very little increase because his country being entirely open had long been all cultivated, except what it was necessary to leave waste for pastures, and that, therefore, almost the only increase that had arisen was from his having repaired some tanks and got better crops from them. The Collector seemed to think that terror was the cause, rather than fair dealing, of there being no complaint against the Raja. He is rigorous in exacting his dues; but I believe that he is just on the whole, and that were he otherwise, fear would not suppress all complaints in a zemindari so accessible and so defenceless. I had none, and his villages appeared to be populous and thriving. I must, however, make one exception to this favourable account of him, for I have reason to believe that he, as well as many other Zemindars, has resumed Inams without authority."

In the year 1821, Rajah Rayadappa received the following communication from the then Collector and Agent to the Governor of Madras:—

"To

RAJAH SAHEB MEHARBAN DOSTAN RAJAH
RAYADAPPA RANGA-RAO BAHADUR.

"SIR,

* * * * *

"For your information, we have herewith enclosed an abstract of the Regulations now in the course of preparation. The chief object of these Regulations is to guarantee to the holders of the ancient zemindaries the permanent enjoyment of the estates and of the customary privileges in vogue in their estates, and thereby to enable them to maintain their ancient prestige.

"You are aware of the contingent consequences of the present bad system of manage-

ment prevailing in the zemindaries. Towards the clearance of the Zemindars' debts, and owing to other irregular ways of managing the estates, they are sold away and are for ever alienated from the families of the Zemindars.

"Therefore you had best consider the advantages that shall accrue to you from the passing of the aforesaid Regulations, which shall invalidate any alienation of the Samasthanam from your family in favour of others, except in the three following cases :—

"1. When you justly transfer your estate to another party with the previous consent of the Government obtained.

"2 & 3. When you forfeit it as a penalty for your violation of the stipulations of the agreement executed and submitted by you to the Government, or for the transgression of the orders of the Government.

"If you should, desirous of obtaining the above mentioned advantages, agree to give

up the rights that you have in virtue of the Sunnad-Mulk-et-Istimirar (Permanent Cowle), of alienating your Samasthanam to others by sale, by a free gift, or in any other manner, you had better intimate the same to us by means of a written petition.

"Those Zemindars who thus represent, in a written form, their willingness to give up their rights of alienation, will never be deprived of the advantages promised to them; nor shall a summons be ever issued for their attendance in person in any court of justice without the sanction of the Government being previously obtained. It has also been decided that those ancient Zemindars, who comply with the conditions above referred to, should be entrusted with the administration of the police in their zemindaries; and sanction will be granted to them to conduct the police work by their own men in accordance with the custom in practice in their districts.

"In these Regulations a new system is proposed with reference to the collection of Motarpha (professional) tax. It is under contemplation that, after due consideration of all matters connected with Motarpha in the light of the proposed system, the collection of the tax should be made either on behalf of the Government or on behalf of the Zemindars, according as the one or the other may appear more reasonable.

"You are requested to furnish us with a decisive reply, stating what you think of the advantages offered to you by the new Regulations and whether you desire them.

"Replies are also invited to the following questions:—

"1. When did your ancestors acquire your Samasthanam?

"2. What custom prevails in your family in the matter of succession to the zemindari?

"3. Is it binding or not on the eldest son (in case the custom of primogeniture prevails in your estate) to maintain the other members of the family?

"4. Was the zemindari ever divided at the time of the partition of the other family property?

"5. Is there any such custom in your family?

"6. If such a partition had ever taken place, what were the chief causes that led to it, and with whose sanction was the partition made?

15th December, 1821.
COLLECTOR'S CUTCHERY,
VIZIANAGARAM.

(Signed) J. SMITH,
Collector."

THE REPLY.

"To

MEHARBAN DOSTAN JOHN SMITH, Esq.,

Collector,

Vizagapatam District.

"SIR,

* * * * *

"From the abstract of the Regulations you have sent us with your letter dated the 15th December 1821, we have made out that, provided we relinquish the rights which we have in virtue of the para. 7 of the Permanent Cowle, the Government intend to make our Samasthanam for ever inalienable from our family.

"Though, by agreeing to the proposal, we should make ourselves subject to such inconveniences as the disability to procure debts when necessary, we who are inclined to think that the Zemindars, loyally acting up to the wishes of the Government, are sure of being helped by God, fully desire to be placed in

enjoyment of the benefits meant to be conferred upon us through the proposed Regulations, and shall voluntarily relinquish our authority to alienate our Samasthanam in favour of any party. We are not, however, at present prepared to submit a written petition to that effect for the reasons hereinafter to be mentioned with due respect.

"Though we should consent to renounce our right of alienating the Samasthanam, one other disadvantage to us from the new Regulations is, that nowhere therein is it explicit that His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has decided to continue to keep the collection of Motarpha tax in our hands, and that, on the other hand, the question as to who is to be entrusted with that work is yet to be decided. If, in accordance with the Proceedings dated 7th August 1820, and issued to you by the Honorable the Revenue Board, the Government should arrange to give us compensation for the amount of the

Motarpha tax, and then have its collection made by their own servants on their own behalf, it should entail on us a great loss for the reasons mentioned below. Many of the persons who pay Motarpha tax have built houses on Jeroyiti lands, for which we pay revenue to the Government. Partly in the form of loans and partly in the form of free help, we have given large sums of money to the Motarpha-paying ryots to enable them to build houses whether on their old sites or on the Jeroyiti lands, and also to carry on operations of trade.

"Many of these ryots have, moreover, taken loans from us and cultivate our Jeroyiti. If the collection of the Motarpha be now taken off our hands, the last mentioned would leave off the cultivation of our Jeroyiti.

"As both the ryots paying Motarpha and the tenants cultivating the Jeroyiti lands, for which we pay rent to the Government, are at

present within our jurisdiction, the former give loans to the latter under the assurance that with our help the loans can be, without any difficulty, recovered. If the ryots be now placed beyond our control, they will discontinue giving loans to the Jeroyiti tenants. This will greatly hinder the payment of the revenue by the latter.

"If the Government, although they should thereby subject us to a variety of losses, should contemplate the removal, from our hands, of the collection of the Motarpha—a tax that was included in the permanent assessment and not excluded from the operation of the stipulations of the Permanent Cowle bestowed upon us by the Government, how can we have any faith that the Government would keep the promised advantages in our permanent enjoyment? You have informed us that, on our submitting a written document expressing our willingness to resign our rights of alienating our Samasthanam, the Govern-

ment would entitle us to the promised privileges and advantages by passing the proposed Regulations. But as it has come within our experience that many Regulations long in force are amended and repealed by new ones, we cannot have sufficient assurance that the rights to which we should become entitled through the said Regulations would be kept in our permanent enjoyment.

"Having considered all the aforesaid circumstances, we beg to submit our request in the following lines:—

"If the Government should be pleased to keep under our control the collection of the Motarpha revenue in accordance with the custom till now in vogue, and if they should also graciously condescend to execute in our favour a document binding themselves to keep, in our permanent enjoyment, the advantages now offered through the proposed Regulations, we shall then submit the required

written petition stating that we resign the rights to transfer our Samasthanam to another party, whether by sale, by a free gift, or by any other mode of alienation, the rights that we now enjoy in virtue of the Sunnad-Mulk-et-Istimirar.

"We shall also humbly submit, for the information of the Government, some details with regard to our estate such as the time of its acquisition.

"The ancestor from whom we trace our lineage is Sarvagnya Singamulu. In generous recognition of the signal services rendered by his grandson,* Dharma Rayanin Garu, the Nawab of Haidarabad, who was at that time the supreme ruler of the country, conferred on the latter the Samasthanam of Bobbili together with such fitting Royal Insignia as the White Flag, the Dhanka and the Naubath, besides

* Under the heading "The Founder of the Samasthanam" it was shown that Dharma Rayanin Garu could not be the founder of the zemindari.

many titles of honour. In the matter of succession to the estate, the custom of primogeniture has been observed in our family. Our Samasthanam has never been divided. It is customary in our family that the eldest son is bound to maintain all those of its other members that have, at their heart, the interest of the Samasthanam. The other sons of the Zemindar have equal rights with the eldest son in respect of all the property of the family, the Samasthanam and its fitting equipages excepted.

"For your information we have represented all these matters, and we request you will send this letter of ours to the Governor-in-Council with your favourable recommendation thereon endorsed.

Saturday, the 5th of the second Lunar Fortnight in Pushya of Vrusha.

(Signed) RAJAH RAYADAPPA
RANGA-RAO,
Rajah of Bobbili."

Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao began building the local temple of Sree Venugopalaswamy, but died before it was finished. The estate of Wungarada and the village of Yambannavalsa were purchased in his time. He married three wives, of whom two were married under unique circumstances. He was first betrothed to a lady in Sitanagaram of the Chelikani family, but before completing the marriage he changed his mind and was betrothed to a lady, in Terlam, of the Inuganti family. On the evening before the night of the marriage, the father and brothers of the former betrothed lady brought her in a palanquin to the palace gate, where they halted and stood with drawn swords on either side of the conveyance. Then they sent in word to the Rajah to the effect that, if he did not consent to marry their child, they had determined to put an end, not only to her life, but also to their own lives, at the very front of the gateway. Thereupon, the Rajah, thinking that,

if he refused to marry her, they would be sure to carry out their threats, called them into the palace and consented to marry the lady first betrothed to him, along with his second betrothed. This proposal was accepted, subject to the condition that the sacred ribbon (Mangala-Sutram) should first be tied on the lady first betrothed, and to this the Rajah consented. At the marriage the Rajah stood in the middle with his first and next betrothed to the right and left respectively, and then tied the sacred ribbon in the same order. Thus, in those old days, the father of the former succeeded in fully carrying out his desire. Fortunately the first wife, Chellayyamma Garu, gave birth to a good family of four sons and five daughters, and the second, Butcheyyamma Garu, only to a single daughter. After many years of a happy married life, the second Rani expired, and then the Rajah married a lady, Lakshminarasayyamma Garu, of Vavilavalsa Inuganti

family. She lived for about 90 years and died in 1899. This old lady was very virtuous and orthodox in her religion. Her life was one which few would probably be able to beat. She lived to see her grand-son's grand-son. Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu died on the 17th January 1830, leaving behind him four sons and six daughters. His sons were Rajah Sweta Chalapati Ranga-Rao, the eldest, Rajah Janardana Ranga-Rao, the second, Rajah Sitaramachandra Ranga-Rao, the third, and Rajah Venkata Ranga-Rao, the fourth.

IX.

Rajah Sweta Chalapati Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.

1830—1862.

Rajah Sweta Chalapati Ranga-Rao was born on the 15th August 1810. His reign is the longest and most important in the history

of this family. During this reign the chattrams and other religious and charitable institutions established by his father were much improved, whilst the property was excellently managed. Moreover, in order to carry out his father's intentions, he finished, in the year 1837, the temple which had been begun by his father and consecrated to Sree Venugopalaswamy; endowed it with lands yielding Rs.10,000 per annum, and made a similar endowment to the temple at Sitarampuram in the Bobbili Samasthanam. In 1832 serious disturbances broke out in the Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts, during which the Rajah captured Kambara Venkatrayudu and other Fittooridars, and delivered them to Mr. Russell, the Special Commissioner.

The following letters and extracts from Public Reports speak for themselves :—

Mr. Russell's Report, dated Madras, 18th November, 1834, para. 60.

" In this as in every other case, the mere temptation of money failed to accomplish the desired purpose, but the Zemindar of Bobbili, who visited me several times when I was at Palkonda, and whom I did all in my power to persuade to exert his powerful influence in aid of the public authority, succeeded in apprehending Kambara Venkatrayudu and his nephew, Apparayudu, within little more than a month from that period, and with a feeling highly honourable to his character, respectfully declined the proffered reward on the ground that he had only performed a duty he owed to the Government. The prisoners are now about to take their trial before the Judge on circuit for the atrocious murders committed by them in 1828."

President's (H. E. Sir Frederick Adam) Minutes, 30th June 1835, para. 27.

" The Zemindar of Bobbili, whose conduct during the disturbances in Vizagapatam and

Ganjam is praised by Mr. Russell in his reports, visited me at Palkonda accompanied by his Dewan, Sitaramayya. I told him that Government entertained a high sense of the zeal and loyalty he had evinced in the assistance he had rendered to Mr. Russell as Commissioner. I adverted particularly to the apprehension of Kambara Venkatrayudu and his nephew, the reputed murderers of the former Dewan of Palkonda (whose long-suffered impunity was a signal of the weakness of our administration in this quarter), and to the honourable spirit he had manifested in declining the proffered reward for the important service. I also noticed with approbation the offer he had made to Mr. Russell of the services of his peons in aid of the public authority free from any charge. He answered, as he did to Mr. Russell, that he had only performed his duty, adding that now Mr. Russell had shown to the country that no further compromise with rebels and criminals

would be suffered, there was reason to hope there would be an end to disturbances. I took occasion, in reply to this observation, to explain that the main object of Mr. Russell's mission was to assert the authority of Government and the laws, and make examples of those by whom they had been outraged, or who had given countenance and protection to offenders ; and it was the determination of the Government to exert its power to bring every criminal to justice, and to punish with severity any who should be found guilty of raising disturbances. I said that Government expected him to continue as he had done, to set an example to the other Zemindars, and relied on his rendering to the Magistrate every assistance in his power for the maintenance of peace and order. I think that a formal expression of the approbation of Government should be conveyed to the Zemindar through the Collector in such a manner as may be most gratifying to him."

Revenue Department, No. 1067.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 1st September, 1835, para. 11.

"The Board of Revenue will be pleased to instruct the Collector of Vizagapatam to convey to the Zemindar of Bobbili the approbation of the Government of his conduct during the late disturbances in that district in such a manner as may be most gratifying to the Zemindar."

Again, the then Collector and Agent sent the following Resolution of the Government with his letter, dated 29th October, 1835 :—

"The Board of Revenue has been directed by the Government to intimate through your means its pleasure regarding the conduct of the Bobbili Zemindar during the late disturbances in the districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjam ; also to inform him in a friendly manner that His Lordship has highly expressed the meritorious service shown by him to

Mr. Russell, the Commissioner, and further that the Right Honourable the Governor-in-Council cannot compare other Zemindars to him in any respect by his utmost exertions being used in assisting the Magistrate to afford relief of the community and preserve the peace."

Extract from a letter from the Acting Agent in Ganjam (Judicial Department), dated 23rd December, 1856, No. 551.

PARA. 9.—"I would beg leave respectfully to suggest that Government notice with approval the readiness with which the Rajahs of Vizianagaram and Bobbili have sent in their quotas, the Sirdars and men have exerted themselves to the utmost, and have given me much satisfaction."

(A true Extract).

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

(True Copy).

(Signed) P. B. SMOLLETT,
Agent to the Governor.

No. 3. Judicial Department.

Extracts from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 3rd January, 1857.

"Read the following letter rom the Acting Agent in Ganjam. Reports proceedings with the Sowrahs, the success of the joint attack on the Sowrahs, the flight of the Dundoosenah, and states that a continuance of the field force for any length of time will probably not be necessary.	23rd December 1856, No. 551.

* * * *

"Para. 3.—Copy of para. 9 of Mr. Knox's letter will be furnished to the Agent in Vizagapatam, and he will be instructed to communicate to the Rajah of Vizianagaram and Zemindar of Bobbili the acknowledg-

ments of Government for the ready and efficient assistance which they have afforded."

(A true Extract).

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

To

The Agent to the Governor

of Fort St. George,

at Vizagapatam.

(True Copy).

(Signed) P. B. SMOLLETT,

Agent to the Governor.

No. 4740.

"To

Rajah Saheb Meharban Dostan

Rajah Sweta Chalapati Ranga-Rao

Bahadur Garu

"Sir,

* * * *

"I am in receipt of your letter dated the 13th instant, in which you allude to what

occurred when you endeavoured, during your father's life, to pass in front of the fort of Vizianagaram on your way from these parts to Bobbili, in which you state that you will be at Vizagapatam on the second day of the second lunar fortnight of Jyestha and that every time your predecessors arrived at, and left, Vizagapatam, a salute of 15 guns was fired in their honour, and in which you request us to write to the Commanding Officer of the Northern Division to have the salute fired in your honour in accordance with the customary privilege.

* * * *

" As for your second request, your conduct having always been satisfactory to the Government, and it having come to our knowledge that the salute was fired in honour of your predecessors, we shall instruct the General to show you the customary honour of the salute of 15 guns both at the time of your arrival and

at the time of your departure, if you should, when you are one stage from Vizagapatam, intimate to us the time of your arrival at the place"

OFFICE OF THE MAGISTRATE
OF VIZAGAPATAM,
20th May, 1839.

(Signed) ARBUTHNOT,
Magistrate.

(Signed) CHENNUR RAMIAH,
Assistant Manager."

To the same effect, in the year 1808, Major-General Goudie, Com. G. N. D., wrote to Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao saying that he had instructed the Commanding Officer to fire the usual salute on his arrival at Vizagapatam

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation (Revenue Department), under date the 3rd February, 1857, No. 131.

"Read the following letter from the Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam :—

"Reports that an amicable settlement of the long existing ill-feelings between the Zemindars of Vizianagaram and Bobbili in point of etiquette has been effected through the mediation of the Agent.	11th January, 1857, No. 51.

"With reference to the expressed wishes of Government, Extract Minutes Consultation, 19th April, 1853, No. 441, that the Agent in Vizagapatam should direct his endeavours to effect an adjustment of the dispute between the Zemindars of Vizianagaram and Bobbili by an interchange of their villages, Mr. Smollett reports in the above letter that under his

mediation an amicable settlement of their long existing dispute and ill-feeling has been happily arranged, in a manner satisfactory to both parties and by mutual concessions. The Right Honourable the Governor-in-Council desires that the Agent will communicate to the two Zemindars the gratification which Government derive from being informed that the matters in dispute between them have been so satisfactorily and honourably settled. His Lordship in Council views with entire approval the endeavours made by the Agent for the reconciliation of these two great proprietors, which have been so fully successful.

(A true Extract).

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Ag. Secy. to Govt.

(True Copy).

(Signed) P. B. SMOLLETT,
Agent to the Governor."

"From

The Governor's Agent,

To

His Highness

The Rajah of Bobbili.

"Dear Sir,

On my late tour through your Zemindari, and while halting at Bobbili itself, the state of your country and the condition of the people did not escape my observation, and I was particularly gratified at all I both heard and saw in regard to your management of your hereditary estates. I am able to record of your people what can seldom be said of the inhabitants of most other parts of the country, namely, that a contentment and harmony seems to prevail amongst them which I have never met with to the same extent anywhere else. Of police-work throughout your Zemin-

dari there is scarcely anything to do. Crime appears almost unknown, while minor offences of common occurrence elsewhere are equally rare, affording most satisfactory evidence of the efficient and sound management to which alone such a state of things can be traced. Disputes of other kinds between ryot and ryot appear also as little known, and I do not think I had a single petition or complaint on my recent visit affecting yourself, or in any way connected with the fiscal management of your large Zemindari, and it gives me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to bear this testimony to a state of affairs which reflects so much credit on you individually, as well as on those who are your coadjutors in the good and great work of sound administration. I shall not fail to bring the subject of this letter under the notice of His Lordship the Governor-in-Council, in view to the expression by Government of their approbation of your successful efforts in the cause of Peace and Order. I

remain, with every sentiment of respect and regard,

Your faithful friend and servant,

(Signed) CHARLES W. READE,

Agent to the Governor."

PALCONDA,
5th February, 1858.

The Agent addressed the Government as stated in the above letter, and received the following reply :—

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
15th May, 1858.

"FROM NO. 636.

W. H. BAYLEY, ESQ.,
AG. SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF
Fort St. George,

TO

C. W. READE, ESQ.,
AGENT TO THE GOVR. OF
FORT ST. GEORGE,
at Vizagapatam.

"SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to express his satisfaction

at the favourable opinion you have formed of the personal character of the Zemindar of Bobbili, and of the efficiency of his administration in the territory of which he is possessed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,

Ag. Secy. to Government."

(True Copy).

(Signed) C. W. READE,

Collector.

The Rajah made large additions to the Zemindari.

In the limits of the Madugulu Zemindari.

(1) Dundi Suravaram, and (2) Jagannadhapuram with its suburbs, Vantarlapalem and Appalarazupuram, were purchased in 1835 from Rajah Krishna Bhupati Deo Garu, Zemindar of Madugulu ; (3) Pappu Chatti Seri

was purchased in 1835 from the Zemindar of Madugulu ; and (4) Chidikada was purchased in 1835 from Mandapaka Jagannayakulu Garu.

In the Ganjam District.

(1) Karakavalsa, and (2) Munagavalsa, Malguzari estates consisting of 45 villages, were mortgaged by Makatapalli Venkanna and Chinna Kamanna to Rajah Sweta Chalapati Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu, and these were eventually purchased by his son and successor, Rajah Seetarama Krishna Rayadappa Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu ; (3) the Hunda of Mantina was purchased in 1856, and the Hunda of Kintali in 1857, both from Kalabarigi Bhaskara Narasingarow Pantulu.

In the limits of the Vizianagaram Zemindari.

(1) Annamrazpeta, and (2) Kottavalsa, Mokhasa villages, were purchased in public auction in 1840 from Jampana Viziaraghava Padmanabha Razu Bahadur Garu ; (3) Tummapala, a

Mokhasa village, was purchased in 1843 in public auction from Dantuluri Seetaramarazu Garu and Narayanarazu Garu ; (4) Jammu, (5) Gujjangivalsa, (6) Ambativalsa, and (7) Duvvam with its suburbs, Chintapallipeta and Seripeta, were purchased in 1843 from Sri Tirumala Peddinti Sampat Kumara Ananta Venkata Acharyulu Ayyavarlungaru.

In the adjustment of the dispute between the Zemindars of Vizianagaram and Bobbili, under the mediation of the Governor's Agent, Mr. P. B. Smollett, referred to in the Minutes of Consultation, dated 3rd February, 1857, No. 131, quoted before, the above mentioned seven villages were permanently leased on the 10th March, 1858, by the latter to the former for Rs.22,568 per annum, the Governor's Agent, for the time being, being made answerable for the rents.

In sending the papers connected with the proposed transfer of the seven villages to the

Rajah of Vizianagaram, the Governor's Agent wrote as follows: —

"To

H. H. The Rajah of Bobbili.

"Dear Sir,

* * * *

I am desirous that yourself and the Rajah of Vizianagaram should meet in my tents in December next. The Rajah expresses himself most happy to do so, and also that all past differences should be forgotten. I am sure you must share in this feeling, and if I am permitted to be the means of bringing about so happy a result, it will be a source of much pleasure to me. I can safely affirm that the Rajah of Vizianagaram is very desirous of proving to you that, as far as he is personally concerned, he wishes to maintain the most perfect friendly relation with Your Highness, and it only remains on your part to shew that the feeling is reciprocated, and of this I look

for your assurance in reply to this letter. Allow me to subscribe myself,

Your faithful friend and servant,
(Signed) C. W. READE,
Agent to the Governor."

VIZIANAGARAM,
24th October, 1857.

[The proposed meeting, however, did not take place, owing to some differences regarding etiquette].

The Rajah bestowed the proprietary estates of Wungarada, Kintali, and Mantina on Rajah Inuganti Rama Rayanin Garu, and the estates of Chidikada and Jagannadhapuram on Rajah Inuganti Rajagopala Rayanin Garu, both being his brothers-in-law, *i.e.*, his sisters' husbands, and thus made them the Proprietors of these estates respectively. The latter dying without issue, Chidikada and Jagannadhapuram were taken back with the consent of his widow, Gopayyamma Garu, sister to the Rajah, and were given to Inuganti Sitaramaswami Garu, a nephew of the Rajah, *i.e.*, another sister's son.

The Rajah was of a very benevolent and charitable disposition, made grants of Agraharams and Inams to several persons; he was also very particular in the observances of his religion and used regularly to visit the temple thrice daily, early in the morning before daybreak, at 9 A.M. before his breakfast, and 7 in the evening. He helped many Zemindars with timely loans; and it is recorded in Carmichael's *District Manual*, page 293, that "for many years loans from Bobbili saved half of the estates in the district from confiscation and ruin." Many tanks and gardens were constructed and laid out by him, to which he gave the names of his father, brothers, and the God; amongst which may be mentioned the Pool Bagh, Venugopala Vallabham, in Bobbili, which he laid out in 1855 at considerable expense.

He married first a lady, Vekataramanamma, of the Chintapatla family in the Godaveri District, and after her death he married his second wife, Vengayamma, of the Damera

family. Having no issue, the Rajah adopted the third son of Rajah Suryarow Bahadur Garu, the Rajah of Pittapur. He died on the 18th August, 1862.

X.

Rajah Sitarama Kristna Rayadappa Ranga-Rao Bahadur Garu.
1863—1868.

Rajah Sitarama Kristna Rayadappa Ranga-Rao was born on the 15th September, 1845, at Pittapur. He had not attained his majority by a few months when his adoptive father died, but the Government did not bring the estate under the Court of Wards for this short period. He was a strict disciplinarian, and ruled only for five years. During this period he continued and enlarged the good works of his father ; and amongst other things established the Anglo-Vernacular School at Bobbili in 1864. He visited Lord Napier at Bimilipatam. He married his paternal aunt's daughter of the Inuganti family. He died on the 17th May, 1868.

His Wife, Rani Lakshmi Chellayamma Bahadur Garu.

After her husband's death, the management of the Zemindari devolved on her. She had, for her Dewan, Inuganti Sitaramaswamy Garu, Proprietor of Siripuram, a man of ability, who had also been Dewan during the time of her father-in-law. She began to build the new palace, the old palace being considered inauspicious. When famine was raging in Bengal in 1873, she sent there, for the relief of the sufferers, about 40,000 Bengal maunds of paddy, valued at Rs.50,000, for which the Governments of India and Madras, in their Proceedings, dated 6th December, 1873, and 5th January, 1874, were pleased to praise her greatly for her liberality. In December, 1875, when His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, now King-Emperor, visited Madras, she sent her Dewan there as her representative, and had the honour to receive a medal from His Royal Highness. The Government showed

their appreciation of her charitable acts by conferring on her the title of Rani, as a personal distinction, in February, 1876. The following is the substance of the letter, dated 22nd July, 1876, addressed to the Rani by the Acting Agent to the Governor in connection with the help she rendered to the Government in the quelling of a rebellion that had broken out at Bastar.

"MADAM,

I am directed by the Government to communicate to you their thanks for the assistance you rendered to them in the march of an army for the crushing of the rebellion that recently broke out in Bastar, and for other convenient arrangements that you made for them in that connection. I have, therefore, gladly communicated the matter to you and enclosed an extract from the order."

(Signed) * *

Acting Agent to the Governor.

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR'S
AGENT,
22nd July, 1876.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 26th June, 1876, No. 1279.

* * * *

"Mr. Goodrich will also convey to His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagaram and to the Rani of Bobbili the thanks of Government for the assistance and facilities they afforded to the movements of the troops on the late occasion."

(True Extract).

(Signed) * *

Acting Agent to the Governor.

Copy of a letter from Mr. Garstin, the Governor's Agent, to the Rani of Bobbili.

"MADAM,

Mr. Fraser, the Assistant Agent, has communicated to me that, in immediate response to his request, you despatched to Pachipenta

fifty of your sepoys at a time when the Police were absent from that station. I am much obliged to you for your timely help."

* * * *

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Agent to the Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S AGENT,
VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT,
CAMP MADAGEDA,
31st March, 1880.

In the year 1871 the Rani adopted, under the authority of her husband, the third son of Rajah Sarvagnya Kumarayachendra Bahadur Garu (27th generation of the Venkatagiri family), the Rajah of Venkatagiri, C.S.I., and during the minority of her son she continued the management of the estate, and had him educated under a European tutor, Mr. J. Marsh, now Dr. Marsh. She died on the 7th May 1887.

XI.

Maha-Rajah Sir Venkata Sweta Chalapati Ranga-Rao Bahadur, K.C.I.E.

The *Maha-Rajah was born on the 28th August, 1862, and was adopted by the late Rani of Bobbili at Venkatagiri in 1871. He came to Bobbili from Venkatagiri in December 1872. His first teachers were two native gentlemen. He was under their instruction for some years, and afterwards was under the tuition of J. Marsh, Esq., for three and a half years. His Sanskrit teacher was Susurla Sitaramasastri, a well-known pundit of these parts. Besides instruction in the usual course of studies, the Rajah received many useful

* He will be styled Rajah in his account till the year 1900.

lessons on morality and other subjects from these two teachers. He attended the Durbar held in 1877 at Vizagapatam in honour of Her Majesty Queen Victoria assuming the title of EMPRESS OF INDIA, and at this Durbar he and the late Maharajah, then the Kumar Raja, of Vizianagaram, were the only natives that were seated on the dais with the European officials. Happily, at this Durbar, the subsequent heads of the two rival houses of Vizianagaram and Bobbili introduced themselves to each other for the first time.

In 1878 he went to Venkatagiri to attend the installation of his eldest brother, the present Rajah. It is a very happy event to note here that the three brothers, the 2nd, the 3rd, and the 4th, given in adoption to the families of Pittapur, Bobbili, and Jetprole respectively, came together there for the first time after their adoption. Here he shot his first tiger. In 1880, his first wife, whom he married in 1878, gave birth to a son, the Kumara Rajah,

but, sad to say, died of puerperal fever a few days after his birth. The Kumara Rajah was born on the 28th March, 1880. His name is Rajah Venkata Kumara Kristna Ranga-Rao Bahadur.

In the latter part of the Rajah's minority, some misunderstandings arose between his adoptive mother and himself. Mr. Garstin, the then Collector of Vizagapatam, tried his best to make a compromise between them ; but before it could be effected, he was appointed a Member of the Board of Revenue. Then the Hon'ble Mr. Carmichael, who was sent as a Special Commissioner in connection with the Rumpa Rebellion, while staying at Waltair, succeeded in bringing about an amicable settlement. Though he attained his majority on the 28th August, 1880, he did not take over the management of the Zemindari till the 18th July, 1881, after the compromise was made, at which time the cash balance was only Rs.140-15-0 in addition to Government Paper worth Rs.2,75,000 acquired by his adoptive

father, while the liabilities were Rs.46,000. He assigned to his adoptive mother, for life, the estate of Karakavalsa and some other villages yielding annually Rs.60,000. The installation ceremony took place on the 30th November. His brother, the present Rajah of Venkatagiri, came and attended it, and Mr. Turner, the then Collector, led the Rajah to his Gaddi. A few days prior to this ceremony, the Rajah married his first wife's sister, as the custom, in general, prohibits a widower from ascending the Gaddi.

In 1882 he raised the Bobbili Middle School to the standard of a High School; gave up the salary grant-in-aid which the School was receiving from the Government; founded a Poor House, called the Samasthanam Poor House, for the lame, the blind, and other decrepit persons, and established a Sabha called 'Budhanandini' for the discussion of subjects relating to religion, morality, science, &c. He made a pilgrimage to Tirupati and visited Venkatagiri and Madras.

1883.

His Excellency Sir M. E. Grant Duff, while on a tour in the Northern Circars, visited Bobbili in February, and was accommodated in the old palace. He seemed to be pleased with what he saw there. In replying to an address presented to him by the inhabitants of Bezwada, the Governor observed :—

"We have in these North-Eastern Districts men who, like the Maha Rajah of Vizianagaram, the Zemindars of Mandasa, and of Bobbili, and the Rajah of Pittapur, are doing much in various ways for the enlightenment of those around them."

In this year the Rajah of Venkatagiri's second wedding and the wedding of his brother, Rajah Muddu Kristna, took place while the Rajah was at Venkatagiri. The Rajah also visited Benares, Gya, and Allahabad with the object of performing the religious rites or Sraddhas of his adoptive father and other

ancestors as, owing to his adoption into the Bobbili family, he thought that it was his first duty to perform these incumbent rites at his earliest convenience. In the same year his second wife gave birth to a son, and died a few days afterwards, just like her elder sister, the Rajah's first wife.

1886.

In this year he made an extensive tour in Southern India, visiting nearly all the important towns and shrines, and attended the wedding of his brother, the Rajah of Jetprole, at Venkatagiri. He paid his respects to H. E. Lord Dufferin, the Viceroy, at Madras. He built the 'Praung-Mahal' in the Palace.

1887.

The year 1887 was a very sad year for the Rajah. He lost his adoptive mother, and his dear younger son, and he himself was ill for several months.

The most noteworthy event of the year was the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, in memory of which the Rajah erected the much needed market at Bobbili. Its first stone was laid on the 20th June, and the name 'the Victoria Market' was given to it with the permission of the Government. He also sent an address of welcome enclosed in a silver casket to Her Majesty.

1888.

The Rajah on landing at Madras had the honour, for the first time, of being received by an Aide-de-Camp (Lord Marsham) to H. E. the Governor and of being driven in one of the Governor's carriages, and escorted by five troopers of H. E.'s Body-Guard. He also received, on the 10th January, a return visit from H. E. Lord Connemara, the Governor, who was latterly pleased to accord to the Rajah the privilege of the Private Entrée.

In this year the Rajah made another extensive tour in Northern India, during which he had the honour of paying his respects to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, H. E. Lord Dufferin, the Viceroy, and H. E. Lord Reay, the Governor of Bombay. He also went to Gya for the second time, and performed the religious rites for his deceased adoptive mother.

On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the birth of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to confer on the Rajah the title of Rajah as a personal distinction.

It is, however, a well-known fact that the Rajahs of Bobbili have been from the foundation of the Zemindari addressed as Rajahs. When the question of hereditary titles was raised, the Rajah submitted to the Government many letters, and other papers, showing that the Government had addressed his ances-

tors as Rajahs from the beginning of the British Rule over the Circars. H. E. the Viceroy was, on the 16th December, 1890, pleased to recognise the title of Rajah as hereditary in this family, as well as in the families of Vizianagaram, Jeypore, Venkatagiri, Kalahasti, Karvetinagar, Pittapur, and in some of the families in Malabar and latterly in the family of Ramnad.

Extract from the letter of the Collector of Vizagapatam, No. 1234, dated 19th May, 1888.

"To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVT.,

Madras.

"SIR,

I have the honour to report on the subject of G.O., dated 29th October, 1886, No. 967, Political.

* * * *

"18. Bobbili is one of the three large Estates in the District, the other two being

Jeypore and Vizianagaram. The Sunnud-i-Milkeut-Istimrar was issued in the name 'Rajah Rayadappa Ranga Row, Zemindar of Bobbili,' and the files in my office clearly show that the Zemindars of Bobbili have, ever since our advent into the country, been always addressed with that title. This Zemindar has responded to my call and has submitted the originals of several letters addressed to his predecessors at different periods since the year 1807, in every one of which the title appears and contends that the fact that the title was in use so early is proof of its having been in vogue under the Mahomedan Government. He adds that many hereditary titles and other honours were conferred on his ancestor Rajah Lingappa Ranga Row* third in the line, but that nothing of those times was left after the now historical battle of 1757,† to which allusion will be made in para. 20 below.

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* Strictly second in the line. † Strictly 1758.

"19. I have seen the Kabooleats taken from all the Zemindars and Proprietors of the District at the time of the Permanent Settlement, and find that the title 'Rajah' was then prefixed to the names of the Zemindars of Jeypore, Vizianagaram and Bobbili and to none else.

"20. Bobbili is one of the oldest families in the Presidency. It exercised Regal powers until our own advent into the country. It fills a prominent place in the history of the District. Probably the historical event of the greatest importance to the British in connection with their Conquest of the Northern Circars was the great fight at Bobbili in 1757, in which Ranga Row, the then Polygar, was killed, and the Vizianagaram Rajah assassinated. This Rajah had allied himself with the French under Monsieur Bussy, but his successor sought the aid of the British and combining with Forde, despatched by Clive from Calcutta, drove out the French, and laid the foundation for our

subsequent acquisition of these provinces from the Mogul Emperor. Had Pedda Viziaramaraz of Vizianagaram not been killed at Bobbili, it is probable that the Circars would have remained to this day part of the Territories of the Nizam. Orme calls the Bobbili Zemindar 'the first in rank of the Polygars, who call themselves *Rajahs.*'

"21. In the disturbances which raged in this district in and about the year 1832, the Bobbili Zemindar was of great service to Government in various ways, especially in apprehending Kumbera Venkatarow and his nephew, the murderers of the Palkonda Zemindar's Dewan, who had successfully eluded all efforts on the part of Government Officers to catch them and was deservedly eulogised by Mr. Russel in his reports. Sir Frederic Adam, the Governor, particularly alludes to these facts, and to his having told the Zemindar that Government entertained a high sense of the zeal and loyalty he had evinced in the assistance he had

rendered to Mr. Russel as Commissioner, in para. 27 of his tour minute (p. 57, Vol. 2—Reports on the disturbances in Purlakemedy, Vizagapatam and Gumsoor); and Government in their Minutes of Consultation (p. 85) directed the Board of Revenue to instruct the Collector of Vizagapatam to convey to the Zemindar of Bobbili the approbation of Government of his conduct in such a manner as may be most gratifying to the Zemindar.

"22. In recent times, the House of Bobbili has always been distinguished for the excellent and prudent management of their Estates. They have always money in hand, and many a Zemindari has been saved from being brought to the hammer by a timely loan from the source.—(Carmichael's *Manual*).

"23. It has been shown above, that the Bobbili Zemindar's claim to the title of Rajah has not only been recognised uniformly ever since our acquisition of the country, but that

on the authority of Orme, this title was in use long before that event. It has not been personal to any isolated nobleman in the line, but has been hereditarily enjoyed by every successive Zemindar. In the same way the title of 'Rajah,' although never specially bestowed, has been enjoyed by the Zemindars of Vizianagaram and of Jeypore, and before the higher distinction of 'Maharaja' was specially conferred on the present Zemindar of Jeypore, and on the late and present Zemindars of Vizianagaram, as a personal title, that of Rajah was inherently attached to them. And in G.O., Political Department, No. 493 of 1862, Government directed that the Zemindar of Vizianagaram should be addressed by the title of Rajah, and this direction was reiterated in G.O., Revenue Department, dated 25th November, 1879, No. 2200. The cases of Bobbili and Jeypore are analogous to that of Vizianagaram, and I beg to submit that the Zemindars of Vizianagaram and Jeypore and

Bobbili hold the title of Rajah hereditarily, while the present incumbents of Vizianagaram and Jeypore also hold the title of Maharaja as a personal distinction, and I beg to suggest that this fact may be authoritatively declared once for all."

(Signed) H. G. TURNER,
Collector.

(True Extract).

(Signed) R. SURYA ROW,
Deputy Collector.

Mr. Turner, the Governor's Agent, visited Bobbili on the 30th November, 1888, and in a Durbar which he held in the evening he presented to the Rajah a Sannad conferring on him the above personal title.

In October he married his third wife, the present Maha-Rani of Bobbili. Her eldest sister is the present wife of the Rajah of Venkatagiri. He built, about a mile and a

half from the town, the Raj Mahal in Raj Mohan Bagh which he laid out. The palace is intended for the Rajah to stay in occasionally for a change, and to accommodate distinguished guests when they visit Bobbili.

1889—1892.

At the express desire of his brothers, the Rajah of Venkatagiri and Rajah Muddu Kristna, the Rajah went to Venkatagiri and took a prominent part in effecting a compromise concerning the family property by the execution of the family settlement deed, dated 8th April, 1889. For this sole object he stayed at Venkatagiri and Madras for four months. Before the close of the year he was again called by his father, the late Rajah of Venkatagiri, to settle about the maintenance which had to be paid to him from the Estate. For the purpose of making his eldest son, the present Rajah, agree to pay what he demanded, the late Rajah instigated his 5th son,

Rajah Muddu Kristna, to file a partition suit against the eldest son, the Rajah, and got some one as a friend to file a similar suit on behalf of his youngest son, Rajah Venugopal, who was a minor at that time. The 6th son, Rajah Venkata Kristna, did not yield to the father's inducement. It took nearly three years for the Rajah of Bobbili to bring them to terms. He used to go to Madras every year for three or four months, and at last succeeded in making a compromise amongst them, *i.e.*, the old Rajah, the present Rajah, and Rajah Muddu Kristna. Before it was settled, Rajah Venugopal attained his majority and withdrew the suit, knowing it was simply filed by a next friend at the instigation of his father. Rajah Muddu Kristna also withdrew the suit according to the above compromise. The poor old Rajah did not, however, enjoy the maintenance long. He died on the 6th of June, 1892.

The Rajah of Venkatagiri received the following reply from the Right Hon'ble Lord

Connemara about this amicable settlement :—

"106, Mount Street,
Grosvenor Square,
19th August, 1892.

"My dear Rajah,

"I thank you for your letter of the 6th May, and I am very glad indeed to hear that the suit for a partition of your estate instituted by your father has been withdrawn. Family disputes are always especially disagreeable. Your brother, the Rajah of Bobbili, is a very sensible man, for whom I have a great regard, and has done well to interfere in this matter.

* * * * *

"With best good wishes for the welfare of all your family.

I remain,
Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) CONNEMARA."

The Rajah attended the Receptions at Madras given to H. R. H. the late Prince

Albert Victor in 1889, and to His Imperial Highness the Czarevitch in 1891.

The late Maha-Rajah of Vizianagaram and the Rajah of Bobbili were in the habit of conversing on very friendly terms with each other whenever they happened to meet ; but on the 1st March, 1891, the late Maha-Rajah of Vizianagaram all on a sudden called on the Rajah, who was luckily at home then in Madras. On the next day the Rajah returned his visit, and since then, and up to the demise of the late Maha-Rajah, they used to visit each other very often at Madras.

The Rajah paid his respects to H. E. Lord Lansdowne, the Viceroy, at Madras in 1892.

On the 29th August of the same year, the Rajah was blessed with a son, Sree Rajah Rama Kristna Ranga-Rao Bahadur, by his 3rd and the present wife.

As the mud ramparts of the Old Fort of Bobbili, which was the scene of so much havoc

in 1758, were completely wearing out, the Rajah thought fit to mark the scene by means of a Monumental Pillar* bearing inscriptions in Telugu and English describing the martial spirit of his ancestor and his followers.

1893.

The year 1893 is the most important and the most enjoyable one of the present reign. The Rajah left Bobbili on the 14th April on his way to Europe, left his son, the Kumara Rajah, at Madras, under the care of his tutor, Mr. E. P. Oldfield, took leave of his mother and

* The following is the Inscription in English on the Pillar:—This Pillar is erected to mark the Fort of Bobbili, which was attacked in January 1758 by Rajah Viziaramaraz of Vizianagaram, assisted by Monsieur Bussy. The then Rajah, Ranga-Rao, after fighting eight hours, finding it impossible to save his fort, and preferring death to dishonour, first put to death the women and children in the fort, and then fighting fell like another Leonidas with all his gallant band. Three nights afterwards, a faithful Sirdar from Rajam, Tandra Papayya, effected an entrance, in spite of vigilant guard, into Viziaramaraz's tent, and stabbed him to the heart.

Erected by Raja V. S. Ranga-Rao in 1891.

brothers at Venkatagiri, and embarking at Bombay landed at Marseilles. Thence he went to Paris, stayed there for a few days, and reached London on the 19th May. His Excellency the Governor, Lord Wenlock, was kind enough to write letters of introduction to the Secretary of State for India and others. His youngest brother, Rajah Venugopal Bahadur, also accompanied him from Madras. On the 29th of that month they attended the Levée at St. James' Palace held by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on Her Majesty's behalf. They were allowed the privilege of going to the Levée by the Ambassador's gate and were presented by the Secretary of State for India. They also went to the customary Reception at the Foreign Office in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday on the 3rd June. They went by the Pimlico Entrance to the two State Balls and one State Concert given in Buckingham Palace. They paid their respects to H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught on the

19th July, when the Duke said he remembered seeing the Rajah at Poona. They also went to the Garden Party at Marlborough House, given on the 5th July by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, to have the honour of meeting H. M. the Queen. Lord Kimberley, the Secretary of State for India, kindly introduced the Rajah and his brother to H. R. H. the Duke of York at the Garden Party, given by Mr. and Lady Constance Shaw Lefevre, to meet the Duke and Princess Victoria May before they were married. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, at the interview given on the 10th July to the Rajah and his brother, was pleased to say that he was glad to make their acquaintance, to which the Rajah replied that it was a great honour to them to be graciously allowed to pay him their loyal respects. The Rajah paid his most humble and loyal respects to H. M. the Queen-Empress on the 17th July at Windsor Castle. As this is the most important event in his tour in Europe, it seems well to quote here from the Rajah's Diary.

17TH "THE GREATEST DAY OF THE TOUR."

"I left my place at 20 minutes to 12 o'clock and drove to Paddington Station for Windsor Castle; thence I went in the special train at 1-10 P.M., in which Lord Kimberley, Lord Ripon, and some other Privy Councillors were going to attend H. M.'s Council. Sir Gerald Fitzgerald met me at the station and accompanied me to the Castle. The special train arrived at Windsor at 1-40 P.M. There were some carriages from the Castle awaiting to convey us there. Sir Fitzgerald and myself drove in a Landau drawn by a pair of horses, which were driven by a postillion.

"In the Castle I was conducted to a room to wait there till called for. There I had some fruit and lemonade for my lunch. A little after 3 o'clock I was called for and was conducted by Sir Fitzgerald near to the Queen's Chamber. Then the Lord-in-waiting received me, conducted me to the Queen's Chamber, and presented me to Her Majesty. H. M. was

standing, and shook hands with me in a very pleasing manner.

"Her Majesty's conversation, though short, was very kind and pleasing. Her Majesty was pleased to introduce me to H. M.'s daughter, Princess Beatrice of Battenberg, who was with Her Majesty.

Though Her Majesty is 74 years of age, she noticed carefully my oriental costume. Her Majesty was very kind and pleasing in her expressions. I was very much pleased, and felt more honoured in being allowed thus to pay my most humble and loyal respects to our Sovereign who has already ruled 56 years. Since my boyhood I have had an intention to go to England to pay my loyal respects to Her Majesty. Now my wishes are realized.

"A few minutes after, the Privy Councillors and myself left the Castle, drove to the station, and returned to the Paddington station by the special train. Now I can say I am fully satisfied with my visit to this distant country.

I may also mention here in this connection that I am the first Rajah that has ever come from the Madras Presidency.

"Thank God! this is the most happy day of my life."

Shortly afterwards the Rajah was presented with a photo bearing H. M.'s autograph signature, in acknowledging the receipt of which the Rajah wrote as follows:—

DEAR SIR,

"I have no words to express my most humble and loyal thanks to Her Gracious Majesty, the Queen and Empress of India, for H. M.'s most kind favour in presenting me with Her Portrait. I esteem it a very great and special favour on the part of H. M. to my ancient family which has been ever loyal to the British Government, and whose footsteps, it has been, and will ever be, my desire to follow.

"I have erected a market at Bobbili to commemorate H. M.'s Jubilee, and on my

return to my country, I intend to build a Town Hall in memory of my loyal visit to H. M., which, with H. M.'s permission, I would name the 'Victoria Town Hall.'

"I would beg you, Sir, to convey to Her Gracious Majesty, with every expression of loyalty, and with my humble thanks, my gratitude for, and appreciation of, H. M.'s Gracious Gift.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient and humble servant,

(Signed) V. S. RANGA-RAO,
Rajah of Bobbili."

In reply to this the Right Hon'ble H. F. Ponsonby wrote :—

"OSBORNE, ISLE OF WIGHT,
ENGLAND,
17th August, 1893.

"SIR,

"In reply to your letter, which I had much pleasure in submitting to the Queen, I am

commanded by Her Majesty to assure you that she has learnt with much satisfaction your intention of building a Town Hall, in memory of your visit to the Queen, and that Her Majesty gladly grants permission for the building to be named the 'Victoria Town Hall.'

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your faithful servant,

(Signed) HENRY F. PONSONBY."

The Rajah presented an Ivory Casket to H. R. H. the Princess May of Teck, as a wedding present, which was acknowledged in the following words:—

"WHITE LODGE,
RICHMOND PARK,
SURREY.

"Her Serene Highness the Princess Victoria May of Teck desires the Comptroller to convey her grateful thanks to H. H. the Rajah of Bobbili for the beautiful gift he has kindly sent

to her which the Princess has pleasure in accepting."

4th July, 1893.

The Rajah presented an Ivory Casket to the Queen-Empress and subscribed 100 guineas to St. Mary's Hospital Fund. He and his brother attended the "At Homes" of the Duke of Westminster, the Marchioness of Salisbury, Lady Battersea, Lady Henry Lennox, and the Marchioness of Ripon, the Countess of Jersey, and also Lady Temple's Garden Party and the Anniversary Fête at the Crystal Palace.

He visited Lord Kimberley, Secretary of State for India, Lord Connemara, Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, Lord Herschell, Lord Northbrook, Lord Reay, and some others.

During his sojourn in England, the Rajah visited Brighton, Oxford, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Bedford. On his way back he visited Paris, Lucerne, Venice, Florence and Rome.

He received addresses of welcome from the people of Venkatagiri, and of Bobbili where he safely returned on the 13th September, 1893.

1894.

In compliance with the invitation of the Rajah, His Excellency Lord Wenlock, the Governor of Madras, came to Bobbili on the 4th October, 1894, and was accommodated at the Raj Mahal. At 3-30 P.M. the Rajah accompanied by his son paid a State visit to His Excellency the Governor, who, after a return visit to the Rajah at the palace, laid the foundation-stone of the Victoria Town Hall.

The Governor, after laying the foundation-stone, made the following reply :

"RAJAH OF BOBBILI AND GENTLEMEN,—

"I feel great pleasure in acceding to the request made by you, to lay the foundation-stone here in commemoration of the visit which you paid to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress when you visited England the last year. I do not think that you could possibly

commemorate this visit in a more suitable and proper manner than that in which you propose to do. It is therefore a matter of extreme pleasure and satisfaction to myself that I have been able to come here on this occasion, and perform the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of what, I trust, will be the lasting record of your loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, and of your devotion to her, and the loyal principles with which you and your family have always been associated. I believe this particular form which you have chosen is one most suitable to the people of this country. They will find in this building, which you are about to erect, opportunities of meeting on occasions when their deliberations can be properly accompanied by suitable surroundings, such as are going to be placed at their disposal as a record of not only your own loyalty, but of the generosity and interest which you feel towards ameliorating the condition of your own people. It is for these and

other reasons that I am pleased to be here this afternoon, and I shall be glad to send home an account of my visit here, and to assure all those at home who have, as I have, a lively interest in all matters connected with this country, an assurance that they will find, here in Bobbili, a nobleman, who is anxious to do his duty to all by whom he is surrounded, and who is anxious to prove on all occasions his loyalty and affection to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. With these words I can do no more than congratulate you on this auspicious occasion, and I trust it will not be long before the building is erected which will be a lasting record of events, which have been of such satisfaction and gratification to yourself, and to those who are, as I am, interested in the welfare and well-being of the people of this country."

At the entertainment given at the Raj Mahal, His Excellency the Governor proposed the Rajah's health in return thus :—

"RAJAH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you, Sir, very much indeed for the kind manner in which you have proposed my health, and those who have also received what you have proposed just now in an extremely touching manner. I can only say for myself that it is a matter of extreme pleasure to me that I have been able to respond to the invitation that you have been kind enough to extend to me some time ago, *viz.*, that I should come to Bobbili towards the end of this year to lay the stone which I had the honour of doing this afternoon. * * * *

" * * * Here is a town and an estate administered in the most excellent and most practical manner. I gather, from every source which is open to me to obtain information from, that the people of this country are happy and enjoying themselves in quiet and prosperity, and that you keep a special watch and special guard over their interests

in a most special manner. On behalf of Government I can only express my sincere thanks for the manner in which you look after all those in whom you are interested, and amongst whom your work is cast. The ceremony that I had the honour of being present at this afternoon was a specially interesting one, as it was one commemorating the visit which you yourself paid to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, when you were in England; it is one which will hand down to posterity a record of that visit, and specially of the loyal spirit which was predominating in your own mind at the time when you paid your visit to that country. I think I may safely say that, in the Northern Circars, Landlords and Zemindars of this country are animated by the same spirit which animated you, and if, at any time, their fortune should be so great that they should be able to pay their respects, in the same manner as you did, to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, they will be actuated by

the same feelings of loyalty and devotion to the British Crown as you yourself, Sir, possess. I do not know if it is necessary for me to say anything more than, on behalf of Government, to thank you for the extremely kind hospitality which you have extended to us, and which has made our visit so very comfortable and so very enjoyable.

* * * *"

On the morning of the 5th His Excellency visited the Monumental Pillar, which was erected on the site of the ruined fort by the present Rajah in 1891; and also laid the foundation-stone of the Samasthanam Gosha Hospital, on behalf of Her Excellency Lady Wenlock.

The Governor, after laying the stone, replied to the Rajah's address in the following manner:—

"RAJAH,—I can only express to you my great pleasure in acceding to the request which you have made that I should attend to the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of this hospital, and at the same time of assuring you of the great regret which Lady Wenlock feels at not being able to be present here and perform the ceremony which I have just undertaken. * * * *

* * * *

"Your own family has contributed largely in this particular direction. The Gosha Hospital at Madrás, the gift, almost the entire gift of the Rajah of Venkatagiri, shows very well how keenly the members of your family take interest in this particular matter. The foundation of this institution here shows that you yourself are as keenly alive to the interests of those unfortunate women of this country, who, up till now, have received so little sup-

port. I hope this institution, when it is once started, will be the means of affording relief and comfort to a very large number of women of this country and this town ; and that other bodies and private individuals, who come to see the good work here done, will not hesitate to follow your excellent example.

* * * *

"I have only to express the pleasure I have had in being here, and to congratulate you on the extremely good example you have set to others, who, like yourself, are responsible for the well-being of such a large number of persons."

The Governor left Bobbili for Vizianagaram the same evening.

The Rajah built the Gosha Hospital and the Lady Apothecary's quarters at Bobbili at his own cost, and handed them over to the District

Board with a donation of Rs.20,000 for the management and up-keep of the institution. It was opened on the 3rd November, 1896, by Mr. Horne, the Collector and Agent.

He contributed Rs.6,000 to the much needed choultry built in Mr. Turner's name at Vizagapatam, and attended, and took a prominent part at, the Turner's Memorial Meeting and the Opening Ceremony of the choultry which was performed by Mr. Horne, the Collector of the District, in the year 1898.

1895.

In the New-Year's Day Honours Gazette, Her Majesty the Queen-Empress was graciously pleased to confer on the Rajah the Knighthood of the Indian Empire. On the 30th May the Rajah was invested, at Ootacamund, with the Insignia of the Most Exalted Order of the Indian Empire, by His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lord Wenlock, Governor of Madras

This ceremony was the first of its kind that was held at that place. H. H. the Gaekwar of Baroda was also present on the occasion. On his return to Bobbili he received an address from his people, who made several requests. The Rajah, while thanking them for presenting him the address, said he could not carry out all the requests at once, but promised that he would fulfil many of them in course of time. On this occasion he remitted Rs.30,000, arrears of revenue, to the ryots.

The Rajah paid his respects to H. E. Lord Elgin, the Viceroy, when he visited Madras, and he then endowed a bed to be called "Lady Elgin's Bed" in the Victoria Caste Gosha Hospital at Madras.

1896.

In this year the Rajah endowed another bed to be called "Lady Wenlock's Bed," in the above Hospital. H. E. the Governor was

pleased to nominate him to a Zemindari seat in the Legislative Council.

1897.

In the famine of 1896-1897 the Rajah subscribed Rs.10,000 to the Indian Famine Relief Charitable Fund, fed an unlimited number of the poor in the Samasthanam Poor House; spent about Rs.25,000 on irrigation works; and sold grain at a very low rate to the Samasthanam servants and to very poor people.

H. M.'s Diamond Jubilee.

The Rajah held a Durbar, which was very largely attended by all classes of people, in honour of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress's Diamond Jubilee. He also sent to Her Majesty a silver casket with an address of congratulations on the auspicious event.

At the end of the year the Rajah went to Venkatagiri and attended the wedding of the Kumara Rajah of Venkatagiri.

1898.

His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock at the request of the Rajah, came to Bobbili on the 21st February to open the Victoria Town Hall, and was accommodated at the Raj Mahal.

At the entertainment in the evening His Excellency proposed the Rajah's health in return thus :—

"I thank you, Rajah, for the kind and too flattering terms in which you have proposed the toast of my health. I thank you, Gentlemen, also for having so cordially responded to it. It is true, as the Rajah remarked, that the determining cause of my visit to the Circars was his invitation to take part in the ceremony of opening the Hall, the ceremony which I look forward to performing to-morrow. I had the intention of coming to this part of the country during this season if it had been possible. But for my promise to take part in this ceremony, I think, I should have

been compelled to postpone it to a future occasion. However, I have managed to find sufficient time to carry out the projected visit to this part of the country, and I am very glad to find myself to-night as the guest of the Rajah. I am certain that Lady Havelock would have been pleased, if she could, with her presence on the present occasion, have given an additional satisfaction to the Rajah. But the Rajah has rightly said that the long journey from Madras, performed in the hurried way that my journey on the present occasion was arranged to be performed, prevented her from coming. She could not possibly have undergone the fatigues of this long and hasty journey. Before I sit down, I must ask you to join with me in drinking a toast which probably needs little or no commendation, that is, the toast of the health of the Rajah of Bobbili. The Rajah of Bobbili is, as we all know, a descendant and a representative of the race which has distinguished itself in the wars in

this part of the country, and has left its mark on the history of the Circars. The Rajah himself is a man of literary ability; he has also been an observant traveller; he is a large landowner who knows how to work his property to the best possible advantage, and he is, I can testify, a most valuable member of my Legislative Council, representing there the interests of the large landed proprietary of the Madras Presidency. I can only say that I wish that we had many more men in the Madras Presidency and in India like the Rajah of Bobbili."

In the morning the Rajah paid a State visit to the Governor, who shortly afterwards paid a return visit to the Rajah in the Palace, and was received in the new Durbar Mahal, which had recently been completed and was then for the first time used.

On leaving the Durbar Mahal, His Excellency proceeded to the Victoria Town Hall

close by, and after he had taken his seat on the dais, the Rajah requested the Governor formally to open the Town Hall.

After the Rajah had handed over the silver key of the Town Hall, the Governor replied thus :—

"The Rajah has so fully and clearly explained the history and objects of this Town Hall, that there remains little for me to say except that I feel it a pleasure and honour to be asked to consummate the work which was begun by my distinguished predecessor. I appreciate very heartily and deeply the sentiments which have moved the Rajah to carry out this work, and I trust that the usefulness of the building with which he has endowed the Town of Bobbili will be extensive and long-lasting. With these words I now declare the Victoria Town Hall to be duly opened."

Then the people of the Town and the Zemindari presented an address to His

Excellency, and received the following reply from him :—

"REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF BOBBILI,—I thank you for your kind address of welcome. It is with the greatest satisfaction I have heard the tribute of praise which you have bestowed upon the Rajah of Bobbili, who, as you say, has endowed you with many useful Public Institutions, and they are valuable works to that extent. You admit that you are supplied with Schools, Hospitals, and other charitable institutions, and water-supply has been more than supplied and safe-guarded. This is a very high tribute of gratitude and praise to your enlightened Rajah. In consequence of his munificence towards you, you say that there is very little left for you to ask at my hands.

* * * *

"I am glad to be able to join with you in congratulating ourselves on the success of the

efforts of the Government to withstand the horrors of famine and distress during last year. I take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of the Government, for the efforts that were made by the Rajah himself to assist the people in his own immediate neighbourhood, and I wish also not to lose this opportunity of expressing the high appreciation of my Government of the skill, zeal, and devotion of the District Officers under extremely difficult and trying circumstances. I thank you once more for the welcome you have accorded to me here."

His Excellency then visited the Monumental Pillar and the Samasthanam Gosha Hospital before going back to the Raj Mahal and left the same afternoon for Vizianagaram.

With reference to this meeting of the Governor and the Rajah, the following remarks appeared in the *Madras Mail*:—

"It will be seen from the reports we publish to-day that the Governor's visit to Bobbili was

marked by some very cordial speech-making. Referring to His Excellency the Rajah remarked :—

'It is a rare fortune for a Province to be presided over by such a statesman, a statesman who, by a life which has been devoted to his country's service, has added to the high gifts of nature a vast store of practical knowledge and experience, and who, while he is ready to listen to the popular voice and official advice, is at the same time capable of maintaining his own independence of judgment.'

" Of the Rajah, Sir Arthur Havelock remarked in just appreciation :—

'The Rajah is a man of literary ability ; he has also been an observant traveller ; he is a large landowner who knows how to work his property to the best possible advantage ; and he is, I can testify, a most valuable Member of my Legislative Council, representing there the interests of the large landed Proprietary of the

Madras Presidency. I can only say that I wish that we had many more men in the Madras Presidency and in India like the Rajah of Bobbili.' "

In the middle of April the wedding of the Kumara Rajah of Bobbili was celebrated with much rejoicing. The Rajah's mother, the Rajah of Venkatagiri, K.C.I.E., Rajah Muddu Kristna with his wife, and Rajah Venkata Kristna came from Venkatagiri. Rajah Venugopala Kristna, and the second son of the Kumara Rajah of Pittapur, also arrived from Madras. The late Zemindar of Sangamvalsa was also present at the wedding.

His Excellency the Governor re-nominated the Rajah to the Legislative Council, and in June he went to Ootacamund, and in the Legislative Council criticized and protested against the Tenancy Bill.

1899.

The Rajah's great-grandmother, who had lived for 90 years, died in May. As she was

very much respected by the Rajah, as well as by the people who knew her, the Rajah performed her funeral ceremony with great respect and attention and endowed a bed in the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital at Madras in the name of the deceased venerable old lady.

At the request of the people of Vizagapatam the Rajah promised to erect, at his own cost, a Town Hall in memory of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. It is called the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Town Hall.

1900.

H. E. the Governor re-nominated the Rajah in April for the third time as a Member of the Legislative Council.

In the beginning of May some disturbances of the hill tribes occurred near Pachipenta, in connection with which the Rajah offered his services to the Government in a letter of which the following is a copy :—

BOBBILI,
5th May, 1900.

"FROM

THE RAJAH OF BOBBILI, K.C.I.E.,

TO

W. O. HORNE, ESQ.,
COLLECTOR AND AGENT
TO THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that I hear you have come to Salur in connection with the gathering of the hill-tribes who killed two of the Police Constables the other day. It is also said that the Reserve Police at Vizagapatam is shortly expected there. As I am quite close to the place, I beg to offer my services to the Government. I do not mean that my sepoys and Velama people are of much use to you, but I beg you will kindly give me a chance to show my loyalty to the Government as was done to my forefathers on former occasions. If you also want some sowars to convey messages quickly from the scene of the disturbances to the telegraphic place, Salur, or some

elephants to carry loads on the hill tracts, I am quite ready to send them to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) V. S. RANGA ROW, K.C.I.E.,

Rajah of Bobbili."

Reply given by the Collector to the Rajah's letter: —

No. 1233.

VIZAGAPATAM,
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE,
9th May, 1900.

Despatched 11th May.

"FROM

W. O. HORNE, ESQ.,
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
Vizagapatam,

TO

THE HONOURABLE
THE RAJAH OF BOBBILI, K.C.I.E.

"RAJAH,

I have the honour to acknowledge with cordial thanks the receipt of your letter of the

5th instant, and to thank you for the timely offer therein contained. I have already informed you demi-officially that if occasion should arise I would have the greatest pleasure in availing myself of your assistance, which I shall accept in the same spirit as that in which it was offered. Happily I now believe that there will be no occasion to call upon you. I shall have much pleasure in submitting to Government copies of this correspondence.

I have the honour to be,

Rajah,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. A. B. VERNON,

for *District Magistrate*."

D. DIS. 1501. VIZAGAPATAM,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
4th June, 1900.

"FROM

W. O. HORNE, ESQ.,
COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
Vizagapatam,

TO

MAHA-RAJAH SAHEB MEHARBAN-I-DOSTAN MAHA-RAJAH, SRI RAO THE HON'BLE SIR VENKATA SWETHACHALAPATI RANGA-RAO BAHADUR GARU, K.C.I.E.,
Bobbili.

"MAHA-RAJAH,

In continuation of my letter No. D. Dis. 1233, dated 9th May, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that I am directed to convey to you the thanks of Government for your loyal offer of assistance, which I have much pleasure in doing.

I have the honour to be,
Maha-Rajah,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) R. SURYA RAO,
for *Collector and Magistrate.*"

In this year the Maha-Rajah contributed Rs.5,000 to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

He built a pakka quadrangular building for the Samasthanam Poor House, which was for the first time used by the poor on Her Majesty's Birthday.

In Her Majesty's Birthday Honours Gazette His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, was pleased to confer on the Maha-Rajah the title of Maha-Rajah as a personal distinction.

In connection with this event, the residents of the Capital and the Samasthanam presented a congratulatory address to the Maha-Rajah at the Victoria Town Hall, and by public subscriptions have also laid a park called Maha-Rajah Park in commemoration of the memorable occasion.

In replying to their address, the Maha-Rajah said as follows :—

"LADIES, GENTLEMEN, AND RESIDENTS OF BOBBILI TOWN AND SAMASTHANAM,—I thank you most sincerely for the address you have so kindly just now presented to me. The design of the casket is excellent, and it is really a souvenir of the occasion. I am also very glad to observe that you quoted in the address the very words kindly expressed by the last and present Governors of our Presidency, though you have flattered me to some extent. You said you purposely abstained from making any request on this occasion, fully believing, I suppose, that I would do something in memory of this event. When I was thinking over what it would be a proper thing to undertake, my wife, the Maha-Rani, requested me to associate her name with any institution I would propose to give you. To meet the double purpose I cannot undertake any other one than to provide you with the Maha-Rani Caste Girls' School. Gentlemen, you are all aware there are Caste Girls' Schools, even maintained by

the Government, in many places where there are Mission Girls' Schools. Therefore the future one will not be in any way rival to the existing Mission Girls' School here.

"You, Gentlemen, Residents of the Town and Samasthanam of Bobbili, have already, with great kindness and affection towards me, been forming a Public Park after my name by public subscriptions. The roads, paths and compound walls of the Park are fast approaching their completion. Now, Gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to thank you very much for laying a Public Park in memory of the present occasion. I hope it will be a splendid place for you all to enjoy yourselves in in the evenings after the day's labour.

"I am sure that you all will be more pleased to hear what I am going to say now. It may be somewhat praising myself, but unless I should tell you, it cannot be known to you at all. In my youth, *i.e.*, when I was about

13 years of age, I set before myself five ideals, or rather ambitious wishes, which I hoped in the course of my life to realise. (1) To pay my most loyal and humble respects to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. (2) To become a Knight. (3) To become a Member of the Legislative Council. (4) To become a Maha-Rajah. (5) The fifth one, quite a Providential one, and one that, when it will be fully realized, will be known to you. As regards the titles, I must tell you my ideals were simply based on the last words of my worthy grandfather on his death-bed to my adoptive father who did not live long enough to realise them. I dare say you are all aware that it is the duty of every person to carry out the good wishes of his forefathers, especially in a family like mine.

"Allow me once more to thank you most heartily for the address you have so kindly presented to me."

In the month of December the Maharajah paid his respects to Lord Curzon, the Viceroy, at Madras, and endowed a bed in the Caste and Gosha Hospital, Madras, in the name of Lady Havelock. He was present at the assumption of the Governorship by Lord Ampthill, and to bid farewell to Sir Arthur Havelock when he left Madras.

1901.

On the morning of the 23rd January a telegram was received conveying the very sad news of the demise of Her Majesty, the Queen Empress Victoria, the Great and Good. All the Offices and the High School were closed; all the usual items of music, even those of the Temple, were stopped, and a salute of 31 guns was fired. From that day to the day of Her Majesty's funeral, the flag was half masted, all the daily items of music in the palace were stopped, and no one was allowed to come to the palace wearing any sort of head dress as a

mark of full mourning. The Maharajah and all the officers wore crape till the end of public mourning. The Maharajah sent two messages of sympathy and regret, one to H. E. the Governor and the other to the Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales (the present King).

The following are the replies to the above-mentioned messages :—

(I)

FROM

P. S., MADRAS.

TO

THE HON. MAHARAJAH

OF BOBBILI.

Excellency thanks you for kindly message of sympathy and will forward duly.

(II)

No. 3382.

"From

A. WILLIAMS, Esq.,

Deputy Secretary to the

Government of India.

To

Maha-Rajah Saheb Meharban-i-Dostan Maha-Rajah, Sri Rao the Hon'ble Sir VENKATA SWETHACHALAPATI RANGA-RAO BAHADUR GARU, K.C.I.E., MAHARAJAH OF BOBBILI.

Home Department,

Public.

Simla,

6th June, 1901.

"Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have received intimation from the Secretary of State for India of the receipt of your telegram, and to express the

sincere thanks of the Government of India for the expressions of sympathy and condolence which you have been good enough to convey upon the occasion of the lamented death of Her late Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Empress of India. The message has been graciously received by His Majesty.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. WILLIAMS,

Deputy Secretary to the

Government of India."

On the day of Her late Majesty's funeral, 1,200 poor were fed, and the Royal Salute of 101 guns was fired, the last gun being fired at sunset.

The Maharajah also instructed his London Agent to place a wreath beside the Queen's

coffin as a last token of his loyalty to the late Sovereign.

At Her late Majesty's Memorial meeting at Bobbili, the Maharajah delivered the following speech :—

"Gentlemen,

"Though it is a melancholy object for which we have met here now, yet it is a loyal duty for us all to come here and to express our deepest sympathy and profound grief at the death of our good, beloved, and venerable Queen Victoria, the Empress. She was born on the 24th May, 1819, succeeded to the throne on the 20th June, 1837, reigned for 63 years, 7 months, and two days, and was called by the Almighty to the Heaven at 6-30 P.M. on the 22nd January of this year at Osborne. Her loss has been felt by all classes of people with deepest regret. Even in a small town like this, where many people know so little of her virtues, the lamented news was

heard by everyone with profound grief. Her virtues as a Sovereign, as a wife, and as a mother are known to us to be so rare that few could beat her. In the Hindu Sastras it is said that if a person lives over 1,000 months, he or she is considered to be a holy one to whom the others should go and make their worship. In the explanation it is clearly said that months means Lunar months. According to this calculation Her Majesty lived for 1,010 months. When it is said that any person who lived over 1,000 months is to be revered, how much more respect should we show to her, who not only lived for 1,000 months, but is also the best Sovereign that India has ever possessed in this Kaliyuga. In the Tretayuga Rama, an incarnation of Vishnu, distinguished himself in his duties and virtues as a king, as a son, and as a husband. In my opinion, in which many of you, I am sure, would join, our late Empress, must have been an Incarnation of Lakshmi, born in this world to become a

model to others as a Sovereign, as a wife, and as a mother.

Gentlemen, I deplored Her Majesty's loss more than any one of you present here, because, in accordance with the first and chief of my five ambitions of which I told you the other day, I went Home and had the high privilege of being presented to our beloved mother at Windsor Castle.

Lately, the Public at Madras held a meeting at the Town Hall and resolved to perpetuate her memory in a fitting manner which would hereafter be decided by the Committee specially formed for it. Therefore it is my wish that we should all come forward and subscribe to the National Memorial to show our loyalty, devotion, admiration, and love to our most revered Sovereign. But I do not like to see our historical town being left without any memorial of such a benign Sovereign. Gentlemen, do not think that I would also ask you to subscribe for it. I shall provide it for

you. It will be the Victoria Memorial Library, and it will be kept in one of the rooms of the Victoria Town Hall here."

As the Maharajah had reigned nearly twenty years during Her late Majesty's time, he contributed twenty thousand rupees to the different Memorials to the late Queen-Empress, and distributed the amount in the following manner:—

I.—All-India Memorial Fund, Rs.5,000.

II.—The Madras Provincial Fund, Rs.5,000.

III.—Lady Curzon's Midwife Scholarship Fund, Rs.1,000.

IV.—The Queen Victoria Memorial Beds to be endowed in the Caste and Gosha Hospital, Madras, Rs.2,000.

V.—The Victoria Memorial Library at Bobbili, Rs.2,000.

VI.—The Victoria Diamond Jubilee Town Hall at Vizagapatam, Rs.5,000.*

* This is an additional amount granted to this Town Hall, which he built at Vizagapatam.

In connection with the above contributions the Maharajah received the following letter from the Private Secretary to H. E. the Governor of Madras:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
April 10th, 1901.

"MY DEAR MAHARAJAH,

"His Excellency the Governor desires me to thank you for your letter of the 4th April and to say that he highly appreciates your generous intention to subscribe Rs.20,000 to the different Memorials to the late Queen-Empress Victoria.

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
(Signed) L. M. WYNCH."

The Kumara Rajah was blessed with a son on the 20th February. Of course he is the first grandson of the Maharajah. His name is Raja Swetachalapati Ramakrishna Ranga-Rao.

While the Maharajah, his family and his people were rejoicing over the birth of a son and heir to the Kumara Rajah, the Maharajah's most beloved grand-daughter died after a short illness at the end of March; and the whole family was thrown into deep mourning. Consequently the Maharajah could not be present at the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Town Hall at Vizagapatam on the 3rd April, nor could he attend the Budget Meeting of the Legislative Council held in that week.

In sending the Sannad conferring upon him the title Maharajah, the Collector and Agent of the District wrote the following letter:—

WALTAIR,
April 2nd, 1901.

"MY DEAR MAHARAJAH,

"As you request, I have to-day handed over to your Manager the Sannad conferring on

you your title. I regret that I have not been able to deliver it to you personally.

"I have already offered my congratulations and I now repeat them.

"I hope that you may live long to bear the title as worthily as I have no doubt you will, and that you will value it as a token of the Government of India's appreciation of your high personal and public character as well as of the ancient fame of your family.

"I am leaving in a few days for England, so this must be farewell for the present, but I hope to renew our acquaintance on my return to this district next year.

With sincere good wishes,
Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) W. O. HORNE."

The Maharajah went to Ootacamund in August to attend the meeting of the Legislative Council, when the Court of Wards

Amendment Bill was first introduced into the Council and he gave his support to the Bill.

In October Mr. W. B. Ayling unveiled the life-size oil-painting picture of Her late Majesty at the Victoria Town Hall, Bobbili. It was painted in London and was presented by the Maharajah in memory of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. The Hall was crowded, and a salute of 31 guns was fired when the curtain was withdrawn. He also presented a silver-plated Gajavahanam to Venugopalaswami of the local temple in memory of the occasion of his being honoured with the title Maharajah by the Government.

At the request of the people, the Maharajah opened the Tandra Papaya Hall, which was built by public subscriptions in memory of Tandra Papaya, the famous hero of the Bobbili Battle of 1758.

1902.

The Maharajah paid an official visit to H. E. Lord Ampthill at Madras. The Court of

Wards Amendment Bill passed into law after two days' lengthy deliberations.

The Maharajah took his mother and wife to Tirupati and Sreerangam on pilgrimage. He purchased one-half of Kirlampudi and one-third of Arempudi Estates in the Godaveri District for Rs.8,95,160, and the Tiruvur Estate in Chengalput District for Rs.1,31,508. He was re-nominated for the fourth time to be an additional Member of the Provincial Legislative Council.

THE KING'S CORONATION IN LONDON.

On the very kind recommendation of Lord Ampthill, H. E. the Viceroy selected the Maharajah as the representative of the Presidency of Madras at the Coronation of His Majesty the King-Emperor in London.

The Maharajah left Bobbili on the 24th April, and embarked on S. S. *Arabia* at Bombay, landed at Marseilles, stayed a few days in Paris,

and reached London on the 27th of the following month. At Victoria Station he was met by Captain Smith from the India Office, whence two carriages were sent, one for the Maharajah and the other for Sir Savali Ramaswami Modaliar, the representative of the City of Madras. Captain Smith drove with the Maharajah to St. Ermine's Hotel.

The Maharajah went to the Levée at St. James's Palace and was presented by the Secretary of State for India. He also went to the Court at Buckingham Palace and was allowed to use the Pimlico Entrance. He was present at the Trooping the Colours by His Majesty, the reviews of the Colonial and Indian troops by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and the Aldershot Coronation review.

By the command of the King, the Earl Marshal sent a formal invitation to all the guests of the Nation.

The Maharajah, the other Indian representatives and several Ruling Chiefs were guests

of H. M. the King from the 22nd June until they left London.

On account of His Majesty's serious illness the Coronation which was fixed for the 26th June was indefinitely postponed. Consequently, instead of going to the Abbey on that day for the Coronation, many of the guests, including the Maharajah, went to St. Paul's Cathedral and attended a special Service of Humble Supplication to Almighty God for His Majesty's restoration to health.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales received all the representatives in the throne room at St. James's Palace, shaking hands with each one of them and speaking a few words.

In accordance with arrangements made by the India Office, the Maharajah, and all the Indian visitors saw the British fleet at Spithead. He visited the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. He also paid a short visit to Brighton.

Being invited by the Corporation of London to the Guild Hall he was present at the presentation of addresses to Earl Roberts and Lord Kitchener.

The Maharajah and the other representatives went to the Abbey on the Coronation Day, the 9th August, and occupied seats in the front row on the north side of the Nave. Though the plans of the guests were very much altered, yet they were very much pleased to see the King crowned.

The Maharajah with the permission of the India Office went to Windsor and drove to Frogmore Mausoleum in a carriage sent from the Castle. He saw the tomb where the late Sovereign Empress Victoria with Her Consort was lying in Peace and laid a wreath at Her feet with his most humble and loyal sentiments. He afterwards went round the Castle and returned to London.

When His Majesty the King reviewed the Indian Troops in the gardens of Buckingham

Palace, all the Indian Representatives were individually presented to the King, who handed to each a Silver Coronation Medal. Subsequently H.R.H. the Prince of Wales handed Medals to the troops, who afterwards marched past the Sovereign.

Amongst other entertainments to which the Maharajah was invited were those given by the Dukes of Marlborough, Westminster, Northumberland, Somerset, Marquis of Lansdowne, the late Marquis of Salisbury, Earl Roberts, Lord Wenlock (late Governor of Madras) and the Bishop of London.

Lord George Hamilton, the Secretary of State for India, gave a farewell interview to all the representatives separately and presented each of them with his photograph bearing his autograph.

The Maharajah left London on the 15th August, and after staying for two days in Paris and four days at Geneva embarked at Marseilles on the 21st. He landed at Bombay

on the 5th September and reached Bobbili on the 8th evening.

In connection with the presentation to His Most Gracious Majesty the King Emperor of India, of an Address and a Silver Casket on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty's Coronation, the Maharajah received the following reply:—

No. 1326.

"FROM

R. NATHAN, ESQ., C.I.E.,
Offg. Deputy Secy. to the Govt. of India.

"TO

SRI RAO THE HONOURABLE SIR VENKATASWETACHALAPATI RANGA-RAO BAHADUR,
Rajah Maharajah of Bobbili, Madras.

HOME DEPARTMENT,
PUBLIC.

CALCUTTA, *the 23rd March, 1903.*

"SIR,

"I am directed to say that the Secretary of State has intimated that His Majesty the

King, Emperor of India, has been pleased to accept the Address and the Casket presented by you on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty, and has commanded that His Majesty's special thanks may be conveyed to you for this loyal offering.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) R. NATHAN,

Offg. Deputy Secy.

to the Govt. of India."

In commemoration of the Coronation of the King Emperor the Maharajah built a ward attached to the local Hospital; it was opened by the Kumar Rajah on the actual Coronation day, 9th August. On that day there were also several festivities at Bobbili.

The Kumar Rajah was blessed with a daughter on the 20th August. She was named Lakshmi Narasamma.

1903.

The Delhi Coronation Durbar.

Being invited by the Madras Government, the Maharajah accompanied by his son, the Kumar Rajah, left Bobbili on the 17th December, spent a few days at Calcutta as the guests of the Maharajah Joteendranath Tagore, K.C.I.E., and reached Delhi on the 25th. His camp was pitched between the Jeypore and Venkatagiri camps, on the grounds of the Madras Provincial camp. He attended the Coronation Durbar and was seated in the second row in the block allotted to the Governor, officials, non-officials, ruling chiefs, guests and spectators from the Madras Presidency.

On the next day at the Reception given to the minor chiefs and other native gentlemen the Maharajah was introduced by Lord Ampthill to H. E. the Viceroy and H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught. The latter was kind enough to speak to the Maharajah as he had already known him before.

The Maharajah could not attend the Investiture ceremony on account of indisposition. But he went one day to the Durbar Pavilion to see the Assault-at-arms and also attended the Review of Retainers of Native Chiefs.

He left Delhi on the 8th January, spent a day at Puri and returned to Bobbili on the 11th of that month.

In connection with the letter of congratulation on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty the King Emperor which was signed by all the Representatives who were present at the Coronation, the Maharajah received the following reply :—

No. 560.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

PUBLIC.

CALCUTTA, *the 25th February, 1903.*

"SIR,

"I am directed to say that the Government of India have received intimation from the

Secretary of State that a letter of congratulation has been received from the gentlemen who represented the Provinces and the Presidency Cities of India on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty the King, Emperor of India, and that instructions have been received under the authority of His Majesty to acknowledge the letter, which has been graciously received by His Majesty.

"2. I am accordingly to express the sincere thanks of the Government of India for the expression of loyalty and congratulation conveyed in the letter on behalf of yourself and the people of India whom you represented at the Coronation of His Majesty in England.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) R. NATHAN,

Offg. Deputy Secy.

to the Govt. of India."

The Maharajah wrote and published his Diary in Europe, 1902, together with an account of the Delhi Durbar dedicating it to H. E. Lord Ampthill, G.C.I.E.

He presented Rs.2,000 to the Madras University for a Gold Medal to be awarded annually to the candidate who passes the highest in the First Class in Telugu Literature.

He purchased Dontamuru and Rayavaram, two villages in the Godaveri District, for Rs.5,44,328, and a portion of Arempudi Estate for Rs.41,300 and some minor Inams for Rs.5,815.

He exchanged visits with the Maharajah of Mysore and the Rajah of Cochin at Madras.

1904.

The Madras Impartible Estates Bill passed into law on the 19th January. The Madras Land-holders' Association several times petitioned the Government for such an enactment. The gratitude of the owners of the one hundred and twenty Zemindaries is certainly due to

Lord Ampthill who took so much interest in protecting these estates from partition.

His Excellency the President in his concluding debate said:—

* * * *

"It may be said that the present legislation only affects a small fractional number of the Zemindari Estates in the Presidency. That is quite true, but it affects the Estates which are most important and the families which are most ancient and respected, the estates and families which ought to be an example to the rest. We look to those land-holders who will be secured in their rights and freed from the anxieties and disadvantages of which they have complained, to set an example to the rest of their class and lead the way along the path of progress and reform.

"The enlightened noblemen who form the Land-holders' Association are, I know, deeply interested in the question of the education of

young Zemindars, and there is none among them who has given more thought to the matter than the Hon'ble the Maharajah who sits in the Council. Some little time ago the Maharajah of Bobbili urged the Government to appoint an Advisory Council to the Newington School of the Court of Wards, and he was supported by other Non-Official Members of this Council as well as by the Press. We have accepted his advice and appointed an Advisory Council, from which we hope that many valuable suggestions will emanate, not only with respect to Newington, but also with respect to general education of young Zemindars, a question which is fraught with many and peculiar difficulties."

The Hon. Mr. G. S. Forbes in presenting the report of the Select Committee on the above Bill and in moving the Bill be taken into consideration paid a tribute to the non-official members of the Select Committee in the following manner :—

"I cannot pass on to the motion standing in my name without acknowledging the great assistance which the Select Committee received from the Hon'ble Mr. Sankaran Nayar, and the Hon'ble Mr. Govinda Raghava Aiyar, while the experience of the Hon'ble the Maharajah of Bobbili in the Administration of his Great Estates was of much value on several points which came under discussion."

In this year the Maharajah resigned his seat on the Legislative Council.

In connection with the Madras Impartible Estates Act the Maharajah contributed Rs.5,000 to the Zemindars' Lord Ampthill Memorial Fund.

The Maharanee contributed Rs.1,000 to Lady Ampthill's Nursing Institute.

The Victoria Diamond Jubilee Town Hall at Vizagapatam which was erected by the Maharajah in memory of that auspicious

occasion, was opened on the 8th March by R. H. Campbell, Esq., Collector and Agent, Vizagapatam, on behalf of His Excellency Lord Ampthill.

Mr. Campbell read a telegram from the Governor before formally opening the Hall. Afterwards the people of Vizagapatam presented an address of thanks to the Maharajah.

The Maharajah went to Madras in April and August in connection with the Venkatagiri partition suit. In spite of the family settlement in April 1889 and of several compromises that followed, Raja Muddu Krishna filed a suit in the District Court, Nellore, for partition of the Venkatagiri Zemindari. Before it came up for the first hearing, the Maharajah and Rajah Venugopal Bahadur tried their best twice, in April and August, to effect a compromise between the two brothers, Plaintiff and Defendant, but without success. On the 9th of August the suit was dismissed *ex parte* with

costs. However, the eldest brother, the Rajah of Venkatagiri, moved by pure brotherly feeling, acted up to his words of compromise, even though the suit was dismissed.

At the express desire of Maharajah-Kumarika of Vizianagaram the Maharajah went to Vizianagaram as her guest, exchanged visits with the Rajah of Vizianagaram and attended the Installation Durbar. Though the heads of the two Houses were in the habit of visiting one another in Madras during the time of the late Maharajah of Vizianagaram, yet this was the first occasion on which the heads of the two Houses had exchanged visits at Vizianagaram.

The Maharajah became a patron of the newly-organised Vizagapatam District Agricultural Society and contributed Rs.1,000 thereto.

The Maharajah went to Calcutta and was present at Government House on the arrival

of the Viceroys, Lords Ampthill and Curzon. He was accorded a private Entrée during his stay there; was present at the assumption of Viceroyalty by Lord Curzon in Council Chamber and attended H. E.'s first Levée. He also visited Sir Andrew Fraser, the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, the Members of the Supreme Council, and the Secretaries of the various departments; and returned to Bobbili on the 21st December.

1905.

There are only two important events to be mentioned in this year, and they are more or less of a personal character between H. E. Lord Ampthill and the Maharajah. When His Excellency went to receive a Municipal Address at the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Town Hall, Vizagapatam (a free gift to the Town by the Maharajah), the Maharajah and his son the Kumar Rajah received and conducted him upstairs.

His Excellency in the course of his reply to the Municipal address, said :—

"One of the reasons why I am particularly glad to be here is that it has afforded me an opportunity of seeing this handsome Town Hall which you owe to the generosity of my friend the Maharajah of Bobbili, and one of my chief regrets at having been unable to pay you my intended visit last year was that I lost the opportunity of presiding at the opening ceremony which the Maharajah had most kindly invited me to perform. Mr. Campbell, your Collector, however, took my place and spoke on my behalf, and I now cordially endorse all that he said on that occasion about the generosity and the admirable qualities of the distinguished donor, and the advantage the people of Vizagapatam have gained in the possession of this fine building. Although I have hardly had time to look round, yet, as I came upstairs, I noticed two spacious and most useful apartments on either side, in

which I see there is a billiard table, which, I am told, is for the use of the Club already established here. I have never seen a larger or better shaped room outside Madras in the Presidency, and I have no doubt whatever that it will be of the greatest profit and mutual advantage to the people of Vizagapatam, when they meet here for every sort and kind of occasion in the future. It is the greatest pleasure to me to see this building and I regret more than ever I did not have the honour of declaring it open myself. However, I could not have performed the ceremony better than your Collector did, and all that I have to do now is to endorse and re-echo what he said on that occasion. It is my good fortune to meet the Maharajah of Bobbili constantly in Madras, and it is seldom that I do not find him considering some scheme of public utility. Only the other day, I had the advantage of reading the proof sheets of his latest work, in which he is seeking to impart the benefits of

his own experience with much sound practical advice to the rising generation of our aristocracy."

The Maharajah wrote 24 essays on various subjects likely to be useful to the rising generation of the Indian Aristocracy, and at the beginning of October published them in book-form under the title "Advice to the Indian Aristocracy." Before the publication of the book, the Maharajah sent the essays to H. E. Lord Ampthill asking for his permission to dedicate the work to him.

After going through the essays Lord Ampthill wrote to the Maharajah the following letter giving him the permission asked for:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MADRAS,
4th February, 1905.

"MY DEAR MAHARAJAH,

I have read your Lectures with great interest and in returning them (under separate cover) with many thanks I venture to congratulate

you not only on your work but also on the motives which induced you to undertake it. It has often seemed to me that the rising generation of the aristocracy of Southern India, to whom we are giving an English education, need nothing so much when they assume the management of their estates as sound practical advice from men of their own class. Living as they do on their estates, in great isolation and with few opportunities of meeting their equals they lack those influences which are exercised on the youthful aristocracy of England by the constant society of persons of similar social standing. You have sought to remedy this want and I cannot but think that the sound, practical advice which you have given in such a simple and out-spoken manner will be useful to the rising generation of Zemindars and will impress them as coming from one who is not only of their own race and class but has also set a notable example as a landlord and a public

man. It has been interesting to me to see how in many respects your point of view is different to that of an Englishman, and I consider it a special compliment to have my name associated with a book written by an Indian for Indians. And yet you have not adhered to a purely Indian point of view, for your 'Lectures,' which are clearly the fruits of your own experience and original thought, show how it is possible for the Indian nobleman to adapt himself to English ideas without losing his own national customs and characteristics.

I have very great pleasure in accepting the dedication of the work which you have been so good as to offer me.

Believe me to be,
Your sincere friend,
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

To
THE MAHARAJAH OF BOBBILI, K.C.I.E."

The Maharajah has distributed copies of his book among his friends both in India and

at Home, and the book was equally appreciated by Indians and Europeans.

In this year donations, of one thousand rupees each, were given to the following institutions and funds :—

(1) The Jubilee Club, Parvatipore.

(2) The Madras Landholders' Association.

(3) The Earthquake Relief Fund.

(4) The Prince of Wales Reception Fund.

(5) The Lord Curzon Memorial Fund.

1906.

Having been invited by the Government of Madras, the Maharajah was present at Madras during the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. On the afternoon of the 24th January Their Royal Highnesses landed at Madras from Rangoon. The Maharajah was one of those few who were introduced to the Prince and Princess. In the Procession from the Pier to the Gates of Government House the Maharajah took

precedence of the Rajahs who have got the hereditary title of Rajah, and of other Zemindars.

As this procession is a historical one it may not be out of place here to give the whole list.

The Procession.

The procession to Government House was formed as follows :—

1.—THE ROYAL CORTEGE.

Two Staff Officers.

A Detachment of 30th Lancers.

6th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

The Officer Commanding the Madras Brigade and his Staff.

The Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant-General Commanding the 9th (Secunderabad) Division.

The Staff of the Secunderabad Division.

The Lieutenant-General Commanding the 9th (Secunderabad) Division.

Mounted Infantry, Madras Volunteer Guards.

Detachment of His Excellency's Body Guard.

No. 1 State Carriage and Four Horses.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

Sir Walter Lawrence.

Escorted by

On the side of the Carriage on which His Royal Highness was seated—

The Inspector-General of Police.

The Commandant of His Excellency's Body Guard.

The Officer Commanding the Escort.

On the other side of the Carriage—

The Officer Commanding the Escort of Mounted Infantry, Madras Volunteer Guards.

The Adjutant of His Excellency's Body Guard.

Carriage Escort of His Excellency's Body Guard.

No. 2 Carriage and Four Horses.

His Excellency the Governor.

Her Excellency Lady Ampthill.

Two Aides-de-Camp to His Excellency.

Escorted by the Native Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency.

No. 3 Carriage.

The Countess of Shaftesbury.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir A. Bigge.

Captain Viscount Crichton.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles.

No. 4 Carriage.

Lady Eva Dugdale.

The Earl of Shaftesbury.

Major Grimston.

Major Campbell.

No. 5 Carriage.

Major-General Beatson.

Major-General Sir Pratab Singh.

Major Roberts.

Major Watson.

No. 6 Carriage.

Commander Godfrey Faussett.

Commander Sir C. Cust.

Captain Wigram.

No. 7 Carriage.

The Hon'ble D. Keppel.

Mr. F. Dugdale.

Captain Makins.

No. 8 Carriage.

Mr. L. M. Wynch.

Major W. M. Campbell.

Major Molesworth.

Captain Mathews.

No. 9 Carriage.

The Chief Secretary to Government.

The Political Officer on Special Duty.

A Detachment of His Excellency's Body Guard.

II.—The Procession.

No. 1 Carriage.

His Highness the Rajah of Cochin and his suite.

Escorted by a Non-commissioned Officer and three Sowars of the 30th Lancers.

No. 2 Carriage.

His Highness the Rajah of Puducóttai and his suite.

Escorted by a Non-commissioned Officer and three Sowars of the 30th Lancers.

No. 3 Carriage.

The Nawab of Banganapalle and his suite.

Escorted by two Sowars of the Detachment of the 30th Lancers, supernumerary to His Excellency's Body Guard.

No. 4 Carriage.

The Rajah of Sandur and his suite.

Escorted by two Sowars of the Detachment of the 30th Lancers, supernumerary to His Excellency's Body Guard.

No. 5 Carriage.

The Chief Justice of Madras.

The Bishop of Madras.

The Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop.

No. 6 Carriage.

The Members of Council.

No. 7 Carriage.

The Prince of Arcot and his suite.

Nos. 8, 9 and 10 Carriages.

The Puisne Judges of the High Court.

No. 11 Carriage.

Maharajah Sri Rao Sir V. Ranga-Rao Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Rajah of Bobbili.

No. 12 Carriage.

Maharajah Sri Vikrama Deo Garu, Rajah of Jeypore.

No. 13 Carriage.

The Rajah of Venkatagiri, K.C.I.E.

No. 14 Carriage.

The Rajah of Vizianagaram.

No. 15 Carriage.

The Rajah of Kálahasti.

No. 16 Carriage.

The Rajah of Pithápuram.

No. 17 Carriage.

The Rajah of Karvetnagar,

No. 18 Carriage.

The Rajah of Ramnad.

Nos. 19 and 20 Carriages.

The Members of the Board of Revenue.

No. 21 Carriage.

The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 Carriages.

The Additional Members of Council for making Laws and Regulations.

No. 30 Carriage.

The President of the Corporation of Madras.

No. 31 Carriage.

The Sheriff of Madras.

No. 32 Carriage.

The Valiya Rajah of Chirakkal.

No. 33 Carriage.

The Eralpad Rajah of Calicut.

No. 34 Carriage.

The Valiya Rajah of Kadattanad.

No. 35 Carriage.

The Valiya Rajah of Walluvanad.

No. 36 Carriage.

Rajah Sri Marda Raja Devu Garu, Zamindar of Kallikota and Attagada.

No. 37 Carriage.

Rajah Vasudeva Rajah of Kollangode.

No. 38 Carriage.

Raja Rangayya Appa Rao Bahadur, Zamindar of Wuyyur.

No. 39 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Ettiyapuram.

No. 40 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Sivagunga.

No. 41 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Parlákimedi.

No. 42 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Mandasa.

No. 43 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Dharakota.

No. 44 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Punganuru.

No. 45 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Kangundi.

No. 46 Carriage.

The Jagirdar of Arni.

No. 47 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Udaiyarpalaiyam.

No. 48 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Devarakota.

No. 49 Carriage.

The Zamindar of South Vallur.

No. 50 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Bhadrachalam.

No. 51 Carriage.

The Zamindar of Kurupam.

No. 52 Carriage.

The Rajah of Anegundi.

A detachment of the 30th Lancers.

In the evening the Maharajah had the high honour of dining at the Royal table at the

State Dinner, and afterwards attended the Prince's Levée. On the next day His Royal Highness was pleased to grant an audience to all the Zemindars that were invited by the Government and graciously received an address from the Madras Landholders' Association. A picturesque native entertainment was given to Their Royal Highnesses on the Island and terminated with fireworks.

On the following day H.R.H. The Prince was graciously pleased to give the Maharajah a private interview. H.E. the Governor wrote the following letter to the Maharajah in the above connection :—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MADRAS,
25th January, 1906.

"MY DEAR MAHARAJAH,

"I have great pleasure in informing you that His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales desires to accord you the honour of a Private interview. Will you please be at Government

House at a quarter past three to-morrow afternoon (Friday, the 26th January).

I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

THE MAHARAJAH OF BOBBILI."

This honour was accorded to six gentlemen, but the Maharajah was the only one of them who belonged to the class of Rajahs and Zemindars. The Prince received them one after another in a most simple manner. The Maharajah was greatly pleased with and honoured by that interview. At the Reception at the Banqueting Hall the Princess was pleased to speak to the Maharajah for a while and most kindly made mention of his gift of an ivory box at Their Royal Highnesses' wedding (1893).

On the 27th Her Royal Highness held a Purdah Party to which a select body of native

ladies was invited. There were three ladies from the District of Vizagapatam, *viz.*, the Maharajah-Kumarika of Vizianagaram, the Maharanee of Bobbili, and the Maharanee Gajapatirow. It is a curious fact that though these ladies belong to the same district, they had never met one another before. Therefore this Purdah Party is all the more memorable, as it happily brought them into contact. Later on Lord and Lady Ampthill gave a Garden Party, in honour of Their Royal Highnesses, to which a great many people were invited. Though the Royal Party left Madras on Sunday night there were no more official functions on that day.

The Governor was pleased to return his visit to the Maharajah on the following day. The Maharanee also paid her respects to and received a return visit from Lady Ampthill.

The Maharanee endowed a bed in the Victoria Gosha Hospital in commemoration of her paying her respects to the Princess

and the Maharajah received the following letter in this connection :—

"Government House," Madras,
28th January, 1906.

"The Equerry in Waiting presents his compliments to His Highness the Maharajah of Bobbili, and is desired by the Princess of Wales to acknowledge the receipt of his letter of to-day's date, addressed to Sir Walter Lawrence, in which His Highness expresses the desire of the Maharanee to endow and name a bed in the Victoria Gosha Hospital after the Princess of Wales. Her Royal Highness not only expresses her warmest approval of the Maharanee's proposal, but also desires the Equerry to say how much touched she is by her kind and generous thought and what a pleasure it was to Her Royal Highness to have the opportunity of meeting the Maharanee yesterday."

On the 18th July the Maharajah completed his 25 years' administration of the Bobbili

Samasthanam. At a Durbar held on the 5th August in connection with this occasion the Maharajah delivered the following speech :—

"Gentlemen,

"First of all, I think I must explain to you the object of this Durbar, held in connection with my twenty-five years' administration of this ancient Samasthanam. In the West, it is a custom among Kings to celebrate a Jubilee after the completion of fifty years' reign. In this case, however, as fifty years are not completed, the Durbar—though some of you have thought otherwise—is not held in accordance with the above custom. Again, as I have not ruled for a longer period than every one of my predecessors, it is not held in celebration of any such record of administration. My grandfather and great-grandfather ruled for thirty-two and twenty-eight years respectively. But, as regards the latter, his six years' minority has been included in the calculation, and if

that is done in my case also, I may be considered to have ruled for thirty-six years. It is not right, however, to include the period of minority.

"Then, with what object is this Meeting held? Firstly, I want to see for myself to what extent the Samasthanam has prospered, in what respect there is room for improvement, and what kind of new good works can be undertaken. Secondly, I wish to observe how long and in what manner my officials and servants have served under me, and to give them presents according to their service and usefulness.

SATISFACTION.

"Now, you have all heard the report of the twenty-five years' administration read by my Manager. And though I believe you consider it a satisfactory one, there is nothing in it worthy of praise. It is the duty of every owner of an estate to administer that estate and also

to increase the other sources of his wealth, to the best possible advantage. If any one fails to observe this duty, and thinks that the estate was obtained by his ancestors for his sake alone, he and his children will be ruined and the estate will be gradually sold to others. His subjects also, who have laboured for generations, would therefore be compelled to serve another master. There is no occasion, then, to praise a man when he performs his duty. On the other hand, if he fails to perform it, he deserves to be blamed.

"Again, why did my parents adopt me as their son when they had no children? Firstly, to perform their funeral rites and other subsequent ceremonies, so that they might obtain heaven, as is the Hindu belief; secondly, to perpetuate their family; thirdly, to rule over their estate and people, to the best possible advantage; fourthly, to continue the good and charitable institutions, founded by them and their predecessors; and fifthly, to finish the

good works started by them and their predecessors. Consequently it has been the more incumbent upon me to perform those duties than if I had been a natural son.

THE RYOTS.

"The Ryots in this Samasthanam are very loyal people. Though there are a very few troublesome men in four or five villages, I can say, on the whole, that the Ryots are quiet and loyal.

THE OFFICERS.

"Amongst the officers, the Brahmins are able and clever, but they are not honest. The greater the care bestowed on them by the master, the better the work they turn out. On the other hand, if the master reposes entire confidence in them, they will certainly ruin him. Now I must tell you about the Velamavaru. Of these people, many are honest, but they lack ability. If they are asked to go and

work away from their native place they are afraid. It is unnecessary for me to describe the qualifications of the officers now on duty, as they are well aware of their own characteristics. Among the dead who only looked to the interests of their master, were Vinnakota Sankaram Pantulu Garu and Chelikani Gopaulrow Garu, and I wish all present officers would try to gain as high a reputation as those two men.

THE RELATIVES.

" I must admit, save in two or three instances, that all the relatives who were here when I first came, have been very loyal. But many of them are dead and gone. As regards the present lot, I regret to say that they are not in general so loyal as were their fathers.

VELAMAVARU.

" None of this class was working in any of the offices at the time when I first came to Bobbili. There was then a small number

acting as mere Supervisors (without clerical work). Only from the commencement of my administration these people have been gradually taken into the office and induced to read at the High School. Among this class, only one, the late Remilla Ramarow Garu, has acted in full accordance with my wishes. I hope the present set will gradually become prosperous.

MENIAL SERVANTS AND OTHERS.

" In comparison with the loyalty and ability of their forefathers, those qualities in the present generation are gradually deteriorating. If men are at all well off, they do not care for service. Neither do they care when they are dismissed, because they are sure to get billets in the Police, Salt, Local Fund, or Railway Departments. I wonder how one who cannot behave well under a single master, is able to serve satisfactorily in those departments which are governed by many masters. I cannot understand how departmental officers

can engage dismissed servants without first enquiring of their former master as to the nature of the offence for which their services were dispensed with. This bad system also prevails among the neighbouring Zemindars.

(Then the Maharajah referred to some events known to all classes of people, to show how the loyalty of the inhabitants of the town in general was decreasing).

CONCLUSION.

"In an estate there must be several people to conduct various branches of work. But among them only a very few are good people. However, the master must make the best possible use of them. When they turn out profitable work, they must be rewarded; and likewise, when they commit faults they must be punished. And so I have rewarded you and punished you. But when I gave you rewards, I gave them with pleasure; and when I punished you, I did it with regret. Many of

you, I suppose, have come to this Durbar with the hope of getting presents. Considering the remarks I have made in this speech, those that came with such hopes are now, I expect, disappointed. However, I simply made those remarks for your own and for your successors' future benefit."

Before announcing presents, the Maharajah gave one thousand rupees each to the two Family Temples. He gave presents not only to the officers but also to every deserving person in his employ, according to service and attainments. The remissions to the Ryots were not forgotten, but they could not be announced in the Durbar as the accounts expected from the Taluqs had not then arrived.

The amounts thus given reached the sum of Rs.15,789. Of the recipients seven officers received Rs.1,000 each. With the same object,

the Maharajah lately gave to certain persons rewards amounting to Rs.7,090.

In connection with the completion of his twenty-five years' administration, the Maharajah gave away in the form of presents (including gifts to the Temples) the sum of Rs.25,000. The balance of the above items, *viz.*, Rs.121, was added to the Samasthanam Charitable Fund.

In the report of the twenty-five years' administration read by the Head Manager at the opening of the Durbar, the following are the chief items:—

The total amount credited to the Samasthanam accounts during these twenty-five years is Rs.1,35,52,213-0-8. The total expenditure for the same period is Rs.1,23,86,189-12-7. The amount of balance is Rs.11,66,023-4-1.

5th August, 1906.

THE EXPENDITURE.

No.	Heading.	Amount. Rs.	A.	P.
1.	Peishcush and other dues ...	31,63,682	9	0
2.	Establishment charges	27,25,959	5	4
3.	Repairs	4,61,697	6	6
4.	Remissions to Ryots and to ordinary debtors, including the amount lent in the Pittapur Suit	7,82,089	13	7
5.	Law Charges	2,25,797	13	1
6.	Travelling expenses of the Samasthanam officers	93,251	13	8
7.	The cost of Elephants, Horses, Cattle and Live stock ...	1,36,738	3	2
8.	Buildings	4,77,173	2	6
9.	The cost of Estates, Villages, and other smaller lands ...	23,48,416	13	9
10.	The cost of precious stones, Gold and Silver	1,35,473	5	9
11.	Cost of Clothes, Furniture, etc....	1,96,360	11	9
12.	Presents	1,20,599	8	4
13.	Schools, Charitable Institutions, Subscriptions and Donations...	8,67,928	11	1
14.	Marriages and other Ceremonies..	54,327	10	8
15.	Entertainments and Festivities...	2,02,826	11	10
16.	The Maharajah's personal travelling and tour expenses ...	3,93,866	0	7
	Total...	1,23,86,189	12	7

In memory of this event the people of the Samasthanam held a meeting and resolved to present by subscriptions a life-size oil-painting portrait of the Maharajah to the local Victoria Town Hall.

Mr. R. H. Campbell, Collector and Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, wrote the following letter in reply to the Maharajah's letter and its enclosures :—

WALTAIR,

24th August, 1906.

" MY DEAR MAHARAJAH,

" Many thanks for your letter of the 22nd instant, and its enclosures which I have read with great interest. I congratulate you most sincerely on your record of 25 years' administration, and I only wish there were more Zemindars like yourself who managed their Estates personally with the tact and ability which has always been so conspicuous in your administration. I fully endorse your statement

that the Bobbili ryots are quiet and loyal. Your figures of expenditure on Remissions, Repairs and Establishment are very striking, and so also are those under items 9 and 13. I hope to meet you shortly as I intend visiting Bobbili next month, arriving there on September 11th from Parvatipore and staying 3 days.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) R. H. CAMPBELL."

This year the Maharajah completed the Gopuram (*i.e.*, the chief or tower-gate) of the Temple of Sree Venugopalaswami at Bobbili, and with this all the requirements essential to the temple have been supplied.

1907.

The third Annual Cattle Show of the Vizagapatam District was held this year at Bobbili in the grounds of the Maharajah Park, and was pronounced a complete success.

The Maharajah erected a new building for the use of the Samasthanam High School, Bobbili, which institution he founded in 1882 ; and on the 16th February Mr. R. H. Campbell, the Collector and Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam District, performed the Opening Ceremony. In the course of Mr. Campbell's speech, he referred to the numerous and useful works of the Maharajah in this District.

Lately the Maharajah bought a house at Madras next to Gopal Bagh, his residence, with the intention of presenting it to the Madras Landholders' Association for the use of its office and to accommodate the members of the Association when they visit Madras. It is proposed to call it "the Zemindars' Bobbili Club."

GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE RAJAHS OF BOBBILI SAMASTHANAM.

- I. Rajah Pedda Rayadu *(The Founder of the Samasthanam).*
  - II. Rajah Lingappa Ranga-Rao.
    - III. Rajah Vengal Ranga-Rao.
      - IV. Rajah Rangapathi Ranga-Rao.
        - V. Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao.
          - VI. Rajah Gopala Kristna Ranga-Rao.
            - VII. Rajah Venkata Ranga-Rao.
              - VIII. Rajah Rayadappa Ranga-Rao.
                - IX. Rajah Swetachalapati Ranga-Rao.
                  - X. Rajah Sitarama Kristna Rayadappa Ranga-Rao.
                    - XI. Maha-Rajah Sir Venkata Swetachalapati Ranga-Rao, K.C.I.E. **(The present Maha-Rajah).**
                - Rajah Janardana Ranga-Rao.
                - Rajah Sitaramchandra Ranga-Roa.
                - Rajah Venkata Ranga-Rao.
      - Rajah Pedda Janardana Ranga-Rao *(Acquired Luckwarup-Cotah).*
        - Rajah Venkatapathi Ranga-Rao.
          - Rajah Chinna Janardana Ranga-Rao.